CIRCULATION LAST WEEK,

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TOLEDO WEEKLY BLADE

DO YOU WANT A GOOD WATCH OR AN Encyclopedia?

See Fourth and Fifth Pages.

VOLUME LXI. TOLEDO, OHIO: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1892 NUMBER 1.

Poetry.

THE OLD BACK STAIR.

Of all the sports of childhood,
I know of none so rare
As sliding down the banisters
Of
the
old
back
stair.

I remember well the circus,
And the fun it used to bring;
While watching fearless riders
A-dashing 'round the ring.
But this jolly old attraction
Could never near compare
With sliding down the banisters
Of
the
old
back
stair.

Then I recollect the barn loft,
Chocked full of clover hay;
Mother used to send us there
To pass a rainy day.
But I often stole away from that
And while mother wasn't there,
Be sliding down the banisters
Of
the
old
back
stair.

I have grown into manhood now,
And often wander home;
The old folks always welcome me-
They're glad to have me come;
But while they're not looking
I'm tempted, I declare,
To slide down the banisters
Of
the
old
back
stair.
—Kansas City Journal.

AN ENGAGEMENT.

She does not wear my little ring
Upon her hand,
I wonder why?
Is it because it tells something
The simple band.
And she is shy?

Yet one could see a ribbon peep
Above the lace—
(If one should try)
About her throat; but let it keep
Its hiding place
From every eye.

The secret is too new, too dear,
No one must know.
No one must spy;
It is so sweet to be so near,
She wants it so;
And I, and I.

TO A FRIEND.

She has not beauty, such as some,
Of profile fair and radiant face,
That strike the startled senses dumb;
But rather 'tis the modest grace
That comes from gentleness of heart,
Of days all shaped by good intent,
Of goodness that beyond all art,
A beauty of its own has lent.

Men do not kneel before her shrine;
No trophies at her feet are set—
She is no beauty pledged in wine,
No Helen fair, or Juliet.
And yet to us she is most dear.
Who know how in her quiet life
She nobly fills the varied sphere
Of mother, sister, friend and wife.
—Omaha World-Herald.

Miscellany.

CAPTURING A DESPERATE GANG

Safe Crackers Arrested While at Work by a Bold Crowd of Detectives—Startling Story of Adventures With Them.

Did you ever stop to think how burglars are caught?—when they are caught.

Of course, some are caught by following clews, and some because they are well-known "crooks" and are being constantly watched. Some are caught accidentally, and some because they are careless. But did you ever stop to think how they are caught—when they are caught—in the very act?

If you had reason to believe that an office building you were passing was being burglarized how would you go to work to catch the burglars? Call the patrol wagon? Well, lots of burglars have got away while a patrol wagon was coming. But, even if it got there, how would you go to work to bag your game without a fight and possible loss

HOW WILL YOU CATCH HIM?

of life? Even after your men are located it is sometimes something of a trick to catch them. They are desperate, and will take any chance to gain freedom, says the Chicago Tribune.

Three men were recently caught in Chicago in the very act of "cracking" a safe. The daily papers briefly told how the door of the building was found open, and some officers entered, interrupted the burglars while at work, and captured them all. It sounds very simple, but how was it done? How would you locate the room in which the "safe-breakers" were working without warning them of your approach, and if you located it would you care to burst open the door and announce, "You are under arrest?" Wouldn't you consider it rather ticklish business? Of course, if you had enough men behind you you would be sure of a capture in the end, but in the meanwhile some one might suffer, and naturally you wouldn't care to have any lead in your system.

In the case referred to the officer in citizen's clothes found the door to the Builders' and Traders' Exchange open, and a short investigation convinced him that burglars were at work inside. He secured the assistance of some other officers—four in all—and they proceeded with the work of locating and capturing the men.

"And it was a mighty ticklish job," said one of them afterward. "Your safe-breakers are generally pretty desperate characters, who will fight as long as they think there is the least chance of escape. Moreover, they have the best of it. They study the building thoroughly beforehand, and you can't tell where they may have posted their guards. I'm not stuck on going into a building after 'safe-breakers,' and I don't know any one who is. We all like to live."

But of course they went in. That was in the line of business. They went in cautiously, carefully, uncertain where the men were they were after might be. They made a tour of the first floor noiselessly, and then started up the stairs. Before going far they heard the men at work. But where? Muffled sounds came from one of the upper floors, but it was almost impossible to locate the floor. The sounds were too faint to be any reliable guide. By stopping and listening on each floor, however, the right one was ascertained.

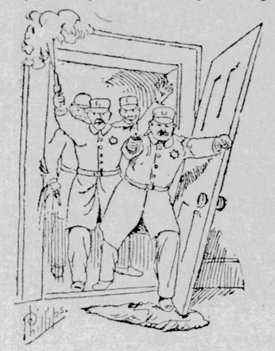
Then came the search for the room or rooms the men were operating in. The officers got down on their hands and knees and crawled along the hallway, listening at each door and half expecting to run into one of the burglars' pickets every minute.

"We could tell by the sounds that they were working at a safe," said one of the officers, "so we knew it must be a pretty bad gang to tackle."

The room was located without an encounter, however, and then the officers withdrew to the end of the hall for consultation. As one of them put it:

"We had 'em all right enough, but the question was, how were we going to get them?"

They knew just where they were; they knew just where they could put



THERE WAS A CRASH.

put their hands on them, but—well, it was a pretty ugly problem. Figure it out for yourself, and see if it wasn't. There were three or four armed and desperate men in that room, on the watch and ready to shoot if it would help them to liberty. There were five men outside whose duty it was to capture those inside, if possible, without loss of life. The latter were not to fight, but to effect a capture.

The door might be unlocked or it might be locked. Who would care to try it? The turning of the knob would give the men inside warning, and if it opened it might be unfortunate for the man in the doorway. If it didn't open the capture would be the more difficult, as the men on the inside would be on their guard and ready for fight.

"If you can convince a gang that it is outnumbered and clearly caught," said an old detective, "it will surrender without a fight, but the trouble is to do the convincing before the shooting begins. An officer is just as anxious to live as the ordinary citizen, and in times of danger he thinks of his family just as hard as any one else."

That's apparently what the officers did in this case. At any rate none of them cared to try the door to see if it was locked. Instead, they evolved another scheme, and when they moved back to the door, the heaviest one planted himself directly in front of the door, and another with a drawn revolver took his position beside him. At a signal the heavy man threw his whole weight against the door, breaking it open, and his companion turned his revolver loose at the ceiling.

There was a crash, a "bang! bang! bang!" and the officers took possession of the room. The "safe-breakers" were so startled by the sudden fusillade that they simply dropped to the floor, and all were prisoners almost before they knew what had happened.

Not a startling case in police annals, but it serves to show how burglars are captured—sometimes.

FORENINST THE BOAT.

It Had a Red and a Green Light and Was Taken for a Drug Store.

There was a curious mixture of the deep-water sailor and the 'longshoreman in the rigging of this coastwise captain as he meditatively leaned up against a projecting spile on the dock where his schooner lay unloading. A similar figure was leaning down the dock toward the schooner when he was hailed by the captain, and, coming about, made alongside the spile, and the two seafaring men exchanged a hearty greeting.

"Well, Captain," said the newcomer, "prosperous trip?"

"Fair to middlin', fair weather mostly and easy wetter," answered the skipper. "Nothin' unusual in the way of excitement unless it was the goings on of a grampus that I shipped in Philadelphia on the home trip. While he was tied up at the Reading wharves loading with coal an Irishman walked aboard looking for a job. He was very anxious for work and I was shorthanded, and so I took him on. It wasn't the first time I ever shipped a green lubber, nor yet an Irishman, but if that fellow didn't know less about the ways of a vessel than a wooden Indian, then this river don't smell. He worked all right in the hold, but when we was under way I had a mind to try him on the lookout, after we struck clear water, as he couldn't tell a hatful from a sheet line. There wasn't much for the man forrard to do when we was outside, but I instructed him plain enough what to do, and he was tickled with the job. 'Long about dark I stayed on deck, the mate at the wheel, so as I could tell just about what the new man was doing and what he was good for.

"Pretty soon the lookout comes aft and says: 'There's something foreninst the boat, sorr.'

"'What is it?' I says, at the same time motioning to the mate at the wheel.

"'I don't know, sorr,' says the man.

"'Well go back and find out and report,' I says then, and back he goes. A few minutes and back he comes aft.

"'I don't know what it is yet,' he says, 'but it's coming this way, and we can find out for sure in a little while.'

"'You go forrard, and don't come back till you know what it is,' says I gettin' mad. He goes up again, but is back again in a minute and all smiling.

"'Well?' says I.

"'If you please, sorr, I don't know for sure what it is,' says he, 'but whatever it is, it has a red light and a green light, and I think it must be a drug sthore.'"—Providence Journal.

FACETIOUS OR WISE.

Many a man makes a failure of life by trying to get along with his kin.—Atchison Globe.

She—"If you had never met me would you have loved me just the same?" He (convincingly)—"More."—Life.

"The Barton ball was very select. There were only two common people on the floor." "Who were they?" "Mr. and Mrs. Barton."—Puck.

"The man with a mouth" may have as much mind as some other people, but he is usually a good deal more economical with it.—Washington Star.

Said the preacher, "You are commanded to love your neighbor as yourself." "Good gracious, as much as that!" exclaimed the honorable men of the congregation.—Boston Transcript.

Friend—"It seems to me that I have seen something like that before. What is that painting after?" Impecunious Artist—"At present it is after a purchaser."—Harvard Lampoon.

Tug Captain—"Boss, the boat's workin' very badly now, and we ought to do something about it. Tug Owner—"She won't work, eh? Well, then, dock her, see?"—Philadelphia Record.

"I wonder why a woman persists in carrying her pocketbook in her hand?" "It may be that her hand is more likely to be sought in marriage if there is money in it."—Indianapolis Journal.

"This paper says they electrified a mummy in London some time ago, and made it talk." "What did it say?" "I don't know. I fancy it was something like 'Gad, I'm dry!'"—Brooklyn Life.

Dickens as a Conjurer.

Dickens, among his other roles, assumed that of conjurer on one occasion. His daughter Mamie, writing for the Ladies' Home Journal, of Philadelphia, quotes one of his letters to a friend on this point: "The actuary of the National debt couldn't calculate the number of children who come here on Twelfth Night in honor of Charlie's birthday, for which occasion I have provided a magic lantern and divers other tremendous engines of that nature. But the best of it is that Forster and I have purchased between us the entire stock in trade of a conjurer, the practice and display whereof is intrusted to me. And if you could see me conjuring the company's watches into impossible tea-caddies and causing pieces of money to fly, and burning pocket-handkerchiefs without burning 'em, and practicing in my own room without anybody to admire, you would never forget it as long as you live."

An Interesting Talk.

Among the relics in the rooms of the New York Historical society is the tail of George III.'s horse, which was taken at Bowling Green.

A NONCHALANT BRIDE.

The Bridegroom, However, Gave It All Away.

It was at the hotel table, and they looked suspiciously like a bridal couple, but their conversation seemed to disprove the theory. He had explained in rather loud tones that he had sewed the loop on his overcoat with white thread, and she had told him that if he'd had any ingenuity he could have made it black by drawing it through the ink bottle. So that every one could see they were "old married people," for a bride would have reproachfully asked him why he hadn't let her do it.

Then they began to order their dinner.

"Will you have a redhead duck or a mallard?" he asked.

"I'm sure I don't know," she returned, airily. "I don't know the difference between a redhead duck and a blue-eyed pheasant."

This flippancy disconcerted him for a moment, but he seemed to remember something and went on:

"Well, how do some broiled quails strike you?"

"Broiled or stewed, it's immaterial to me," she answered nonchalantly.

Then he became cross and delivered himself of an opinion.

"See here, Alice, you've got to decide. I don't want to go and order something for our first dinner——"

And then he suddenly paused as Alice moaned:

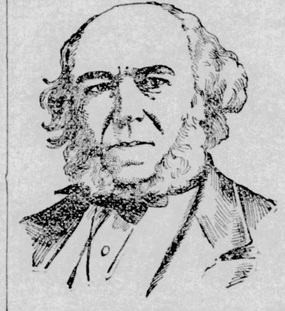
"Oh, hush! I knew you'd forget. You've given it away after all my attempts to seem so old married! Oh, Ralph!"

And the hearers thought again of the stupidity of man, and how it ruthlessly destroys all that the finesse of woman accomplishes. And they also wondered again why the victims of a wedding journey should regard themselves as criminals.—Chicago Times.

HERBERT SPENCER,

The Great English Philosopher, Seriously Ill.

Herbert Spencer, philosopher and author, although in the 73d year of his life, has been strong and active until within a short time. His health is now failing him, and it seems doubtful if he will recover. He was born in 1820 at Derby, and received his education from his father, and his uncle, the Rev. Thos. Spencer. At 17 he became a civil engineer, but abandoned this occupation



HERBERT SPENCER.

after eight years, and began literary work in earnest, although he had before this he had contributed to the Civil Engineers' and Architects' Journal.

His first literary production was a seris of letters on "The Proper Sphere of Government," published in 1842. From 1848—'53 h was sub-editor of the Economist, and during that time published his first important work, entitled "Social Statics, or The Conditions Essential to Human Happiness and One of Them Developed," but this is now out of print.

In 1855 his "Principles of Psychology" appeared; and since 1857 his life has been devoted for the most part to the execution of his "System of Synthetic Philosophy."

Spencer's works have been extensively translated into French, German, Russian, Italian and Spanish; and the works on Education into Hungarian, Bohemian, Polish, Dutch, Danish, Swedish, Greek, Japanese and Chinese.

Nobody Rifled the Box.

"One of the coolest actions I ever observed in the course of my express experience," said an express messenger, "was that of a rough fellow from New Mexico. He was poorly dressed, and boarded our train at Tombstone on a second-class ticket, depositing at the same time a box in the care of the express agent, labeled 'Rattlesnakes—handle with care.' It was a small soap box, and not very heavy, but you can bet that box was zealously guarded. At Kansas City he came and got the box and carried it off to a bank. The banker was a friend of mine, and, meeting him the next day, I asked what that fellow did in the bank with the rattlesnakes.

"'Rattlesnakes! Well, that's a good joke on the express company,' he replied. 'That box had $80,000 in $10 greenbacks in it.'

"If the money had been entered as money we would have charged him a neat sum for its transportation, but by labeling it rattlesnakes he had it carried for a trifle, and I'll venture it was more secure from robbers under that simple title than it would have been in the stoutest safe."—Cincinnati Times-Star.

Why Women are Not Humorists.

A writer in the open-letter department of the current Century asks why in literature there are no lady humorists. He then goes on to answer his question by explaining that from childhood man finds the sawdust dropping out of everything, and soon discovers the worthlessness of much that passes for valuable. Therefore, he learns to smile and to say, "Is it not absurd?" instead of allowing his passion for something to adore to override his growing desire for truth. But, on the other hand, a woman's idols are so much a part of her life that when they are broken she can not snap her fingers, nor seek mirth as an avenue of escape. Woman may justly grow satirical, but satire is only a form of humor. When life ceases to be in some way holy, or at any rate ideal, then woman's creative faculty terminates," says the writer. "She ends where man's talent as a humorist begins."

Young Mice Adopted by a Cat.

Aboard the steamer Wilmington, which to-day arrived in the harbor, is a cat. She has the maternal instinct developed to an extraordinary degree. Some months ago, so the officers say, and their word is not to be doubted, she adopted the kitten of another cat, which had died. Still later she adopted another orphan kitten, but her latest adoption took place only a week or so since. In rummaging in the ship's hold she discovered and killed an old female mouse which had two little mice. These the cat adopted, and up to date has reared them as her own. Then her large family became a nuisance and had to be destroyed.—Seattle Press-Times.

Fright Over Ancient Comets.

There are twenty comets that are known to be periodic, the most famous, perhaps, of which is Halley's, which in 1456, just after the taking of Constantinople, excited the direst consternation in Europe, and was supposed to have some connection with the triumph of the Moslem armies. To the Ave Maria at that time was added the prayer: "Lord save us from the devil, the Turk, and the comet!" The great comet of 1861 will be vividly recalled by many of our readers, and it will be remembered that its appearance was not by a few superstitionsly supposed to have some occult connection with the civil war.—Boston Traveller.

Household Sweetness.

Mr. Plummer—I just found my hat on the refrigerator. I wonder on what ridiculous thing I will find it next?

Mrs. Plummer—Probably on your head, dear.

And Mrs. Plummer smiled sweetly as Mr. Plummer slammed the door and rushed down stairs.—Judge.

WORE A SHIRT OF CHAIN STEEL

How a Captured Highbinder Was Protected from Knife or Pistol.

A few days ago the San Francisco police received information that a battle between rival highbinder gangs was to take place early that afternoon in the vicinity of Jackson and Dupont streets. A number of officers in plain clothes were stationed at various points near that spot, and shortly Chinamen began to gather there in large numbers. The presence of the officers became known to the Mongolians, one of whom uttered a sharp cry, and immediately there was a scattering. Numerous arrests were made in a house into which some of the Chinamen fled, the fugitives making frantic efforts to divest themselves of their clothing. The reason for this was made manifest, says the Chronicle, when one of them was closely examined. He had thrown off only his outer cloak and still wore his trousers and shoes and another article of apparel, or armor, that he had been unable to take off. This was a coat of mail that would have turned any ordinary weapon or missile.

COAT OF MAIL.

It weighed 21 pounds, and was composed of very small steel wire rings woven one into another. This coat of mail was sewed between two thicknesses of heavy navy blue flannel. When the Chinaman was made to stand erect his armor fell below his hips. Though the garment was practically sleeveless there was a sufficient length of armor at the shoulder to prevent any injury being received under the arm. Any man wearing the garment could not have received a fatal bodily injury in an ordinary combat with knives or pistols. Only the head and limbs would have been exposed to the weapons of an antagonist, and experience has shown that in fights with knives and pistols few serious injuries are received above the shoulder. Another captive was similarly equipped.

A LAKE WITHIN A GLACIER.

The Alpine Disaster Which Overwhelmed St. Gervais Explained.

The geologists who have investigated the cause of the great disaster which overwhelmed a part of St. Gervais, Switzerland, with ice and water from the lower part of the Bionassy glaciers have solved the mystery. Up the side of the mountain, at the foot of the steep glacial wall whose lower part broke away, the explorers found in the ice an oval cavern about 130 feet in width and 75 feet in height. In the interior of the cavern was a corridor covered with blocks of ice and leading into a grandiloquent with perpendicular walls of ice. It was 45 feet long, 200 feet wide and 140 feet high. In this great cavity there had been an intraglacial lake, of whose existence no one had been aware. The condition of the walls proved that the cavity had been full of water recently.

The existence of this great reservoir of unfrozen water inclosed on all sides explains the nature of the immense avalanche that overwhelmed the valley below. The excessive heat of the days before the disaster had probably increased the quantity of water in the natural reservoir and the great pressure broke the front wall, cracking away the lower part of the glacier, and permitting the immense volume of water to pour down the mountain into the valley below, carrying with it the broken foot of the glacier. The water and ice fell a distance of 2,000 feet down an inclined plane two miles long, and a portion of St. Gervais had been overwhelmed almost before any one heard the roar of the approaching deluge.

This is the only accident due to such a remarkable cause ever known in the Alps. It has been followed, however, by a somewhat similar accident at the Misaun glacier near Entresalne. A considerable part of this short, steep glacier fell, and, although there was no loss of life, the accident draws attention to the fact that all over the Alps during recently an unusual heat a swelling of the upper snows which feed the glaciers. They report that not a few of the glaciers have been impassable without great risk this season and that the upper edges of the névés have overhung in a remarkable manner. These facts point to an expansion of the upper snow field by great heat, and before the next season was more than half over climbers were warned of this fact, which was doubtless the cause of many avalanches.

A fall of ice from one of the glaciers in the Valley of Visp partly destroyed the village of Tasch, near Zermatt. It carried away nearly a quarter of a mile of the highway. The waters of the Viege torrent, swollen by melting snow from the mountains, attacked the stone bed of the Viege-Zermatt railroad and destroyed a large section of the line. Now a number of days tourists going to Zermatt were transported on mules around the break.—New York Sun.

A Dainty Pocket Knife.

In the pocket of a tailor made gown the swell girl carries her knife. Anybody who thinks this is an ordinary knife such as can be gotten at any shop is mistaken; it is invariably made of gold, and, in addition, is decorated with some special design. A very original one has a heart of lapis luzuli framed in diamonds set in one corner of the handle, and the owner's name and a various alphabet carved on the other. A very general fancy exists for having the name engraved upon the knife in an exact copy of the way one would write one's own initials.—Chicago Journal.

Kissing 300 Young Ladies.

The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland is addressed as "Sir," just like the Prince of Wales, and he has the privilege of kissing the young ladies presented at the drawing rooms. Some of the past Lord Lieutenants have kissed as many as 300 young ladies in the course of a single afternoon.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Real Old Family Gems.

Miss Dizzy—We have been admiring your diamonds clear across the room.

Miss Antique—They were given to me when I made my debut into society.

Miss Dizzy—Yes, I said to Mr. Dasher that I knew you must have had them for years.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

A Mistake in the Man.

"Father," said a little boy as he turned to the pages of a weekly exchange in the sanctum, "why does Columbus——"

"Don't," said the editor to the devil, "look over my subscription book. I'll bet ten dollars he's in arrears."—Atlanta Constitution.

An Awful Threat.

"John," she said earnestly, "I am going to vote sooner or later; mark my word."

"Maria," he replied with equal earnestness, "if you do I go to cooking school and learn to make biscuits."—Washington Star.

At the Wedding.

De Willon—Why did the clergyman ask him if he would have her for better or worse?

Majilton—I guess it is because they haven't settled definitely whether they will live in New York or Brooklyn.

A Vacant Lot.

"Do you think," asked Willie Wishington, "that dudes have any value in the world?"

"I don't know," replied Belle Pepperton. "It seems to me that one might make a collection of them and then speculate in them as a vacant lot."—Washington Star.

Tells Her Everything.

The married man—I tell my wife everything, sir—everything.

The bachelor—Even tell her a lie?

The married man—Didn't I say I tell her everything?—Smith, Gray & Co.'s Monthly.

A Wide Margin.

Sir Archibald Gerkie, of the British association, after much careful thought and patient investigation, together with a deal of figuring, has come to the conclusion that the world is between 73,000,000 and 650,000,000 years old.—San Francisco Argonaut.

Our Serial Story.

Written Expressly for THE BLADE. Copyright 1892.

A DAZZLING SCHEME.

By WILL LISENBEE.

CHAPTER I.

HAMPTON & BANGS.

It was an idle day in the office of Hampton & Bangs, Cyrus Hampton sat with his chair tilted back against the wall, his gaze wandering abstractedly through the open window. Ezra Bangs had fallen asleep over a week old paper from the East, and with his florid face leaning on his desk, now and then gave vent to a decidedly audible snore.

Even the dilapidated sign over the door, which was wont to keep up a dismal creaking, had caught the air of universal inactivity that pervaded the place, and now hung silent in the sultry air. "Hampton & Bangs, Attorneys at Law, Abstractors, Conveyancers and Real Estate Agents," did not seem to be crowded with business, and on this particular evening in August, found ample time to conform to the customs of Southern Arizona by indulging in a prolonged siesta.

Cyrus Hampton, who had more than once vigorously denounced the habit of spending a part of the afternoon in slumber, as a creation of the worthless, lazy greasers, caught himself nodding several times, and it was only by the greatest effort that he threw off the feeling of drowsiness that would overcome him.

Presently, when a louder snore than common came from the sleeping Bangs, he threw himself in an upright position in his chair, letting his feet come down with a heavy bang upon the floor, that startled his partner from his repose.

"What's up?" growled Bangs, mopping the perspiration from his florid visage, as he arose from the desk. "Has lightning struck the house?"

"Hardly," responded Hampton; "I only set my feet upon the floor."

"Then don't do it any more," pleaded Bangs. "I had just got into a doze, and—"

"You have been sleeping like a log for two hours," said Hampton, interrupting the other with a wave of his hand. "Wake up, I want to talk business with you."

"Business! Great Jupiter! Now I am awake. Who's been saying anything about business? I thought that was a total stranger in Nogales."

"And so it will be if we sit 'round here like two buzzards in the sun waiting for something to die and furnish them a feast," responded Hampton. "If there is no business, we must create some."

"That's a capital idea, but I can't see how it is to be done. We have already been here three months and haven't made enough to pay our rent. There's no business in the place, but if you know of any plan to change this distressing state of affairs, do let us have it at once."

"I have been thinking of a little plan," said Hampton, reflectively, casting his eyes toward the dingy ceiling, "but I haven't got it all figured out yet. It is in relation to the Bayard Benton case."

"Ah, I see! You expect us to go out and play the sleuth hound; hunt up the missing Gertrude Benton, and gain the $1,000 reward?"

"Well, your are right in one sense, and in another you are wrong. You remember when old Bayard Benton died nearly a month ago, he left some business in our hands to be looked after."

"Yes; and the old miser was very careful to arrange matters so that we could make nothing out of them but a trifle, unless we succeeded in finding his daughter whom he left back in Kansas ten years ago, and has not heard of since."

"Exactly; but if we find her we are to receive $1,000 for our services, besides having a good chance to make some handsome fees in the management of the business, if we handle the affair properly."

"Yes, if we find her! but there's the rub. Haven't we already exhausted every means in our power, and all we can learn is that she left Kansas with a family by the name of Simpson six years ago, bound for Arizona, and didn't we learn on further inquiry, that the Simpson family were massacred by Apaches before reaching the territory, and it isn't likely that the girl fared any better than the others."

"You may be right, but it has not been proven that she is dead."

"No."

"Then if some one answering to the girl's description should turn up and claim the estate, there wouldn't be anybody to dispute her claim."

"No; perhaps not."

"Then what is to hinder us from finding such a girl? If it is not the true Gertrude Benton it won't be our fault, even if it should be found out—which is not likely—for we are only her attorneys."

Ezra Bangs looked at his partner in amazement, fairly carried away with the boldness of the plan the other's words had suggested.

"If the matter could be properly and successfully managed," went on Hampton, coolly, "you can easily see how it might put us in a way to share a large portion of old Benton's fortune. He hasn't a living relative on earth if his daughter is dead, and there is no chance of being bothered by any other claimants. The matter is practically in our own hands, and if we don't profit by it we deserve to be poor all our lives."

"By Jupiter you are right!" exclaimed Bangs, reaching out and grasping the hand of his partner. "You've got a long head on you, Hampton—I always have said so, even when luck was against us both, and now I'm convinced that I was right. It was a lucky day when I formed a partnership with you. You ought to be in the legislature — you ought by Jupiter!"

Cyrus Hampton smiled.

"I don't know about that," he said, "and I don't suppose you want to cast any reflections on legislative bodies in general, but I've found out that it always pays to look out for number one."

"So it does," sanctioned Bangs. "But how are we to manage it about the girl? Where could we find one that would answer our purpose?"

"I think we can fix that," returned Hampton. "Let me see—what was the name of the family we sold the White Bird ranch to some two months ago? Ah, yes, Bogford—that is it. Silas Bogford is the old man's name, isn't it? Well, how much is due on the ranch yet? A thousand isn't it?"

"Yes; a thousand dollars, but it's not likely to be paid soon. The old man is flat on his back with inflammatory rheumatism and no one to look after the shop but a worthless greaser and the girl——"

"The girl—ah! she is the one we must get to do the business——"

"Lucy Bogford! Never! She would die rather than do such a thing!" And Bangs leaned back in his chair as if the matter was settled.

"Not so fast," said Hampton, composedly. "You don't know what a person may do when driven to it by circumstances. As you say the old man is sick and he one to look after his business but the girl, and it's very plain that he's not going to be able to pay the money due Manuel Garcia for the ranch. If he don't, he will lose that which he has already paid and the ranch as well, and it would be an ungrateful daughter who would refuse to assist her father under such circumstances."

"Yes, but I don't think it will be any use to attempt to induce her to act with us in the matter. I know her better than you do."

"So you do, my dear Ezra," said Hampton, with a knowing look, "and that is one reason why I suggested the matter to you. I shall rely on your influence with the girl to help us out. You have visited the ranch quite frequently of late, and if I am not mistaken she is not indifferent to the attentions you bestow upon her. You are a devilish sly dog, Bangs."

Ezra Bangs looked out of the window, stroked his mustache complacently, and winked violently at a hitching post that stood in front of the building.

"And what I was going to suggest," continued Hampton, "is something that might not yet have occurred to your mind. You are close onto forty, Bangs, if I mistake not—an age when a man, who is single, should begin to cast about for a wife, and if you should decide to act on the suggestion, in what better direction could you turn your eyes than toward the pretty Lucy Bogford. As your promised wife, Ezra, we would stand a double chance of securing her services in this little affair, and if everything worked successfully, we would all be as rich as Jews, and no one the wiser."

"By Jupiter! you are right!" exclaimed Bangs, enthusiastically. "You have got a long head on you, Hampton, and if we don't make our pile out of this transaction we ought to quit the business and go to sheep herding for our board and clothes."

"I don't think we shall do any sheep herding," returned Hampton, with a smile. "We are playing for deuced big game, and it's worth a deal of trouble. Old Bayard Benton left a cool hundred thousand in the Prescott bank, besides a half interest in the 'Kansas Belle,' one of the richest gold mines in Arizona. I'll tell you what, Bangs, we've struck the chance of our life time."

"But the girl—if we could arrange the matter with her, do you think there would be any danger of any one happening along that knew her and spoiling the whole plan?"

"Not a bit of it. The family is just from Nebraska, and they might live here fifty years and never see any one that knows them. Besides, living in the out-of-the-way place they do, it isn't likely they'll see a white man once a year. No one here excepting ourselves knows them, and we are perfectly safe on that score."

"That's just where you are mistaken," said Bangs, "and that is what is troubling me."

"What—what do you mean?"

"I am not the only visitor to the place. There is a young man by the name of Paul Mayfield who comes there occasionally, and seems to be quite well acquainted with the family."

"The deuce you say! Where does he come from? and what is his business?"

"That I cannot tell, though I understood that he is engaged in making a hydrographic survey over in the mountains some ten or fifteen miles from the White Bird ranch."

"That is unfortunate, but it is not likely that his presence will interfere with our plans in any way. If it should, we must find some plan to get him out of the way. What business brings him to the ranch?"

"Plague take it if I can tell."

"Can it be that he has any designs—that is, do you thing that the girl has anything to do with his coming?"

"Curse the luck! there is just where the rub comes in. I don't know anything about his object in coming, but I'm going to find out."

"That's right. When will you go to the ranch again?"

"To-morrow. You see the old man and I are fast friends, and I go out to take him medicine, so my going won't excite any suspicion."

"Has Bogford no doctor?"

"No; he's an odd character. He declares he came away from Nebraska to escape the doctors, and is now trying some treatment of his own. It appears that the old fellow is about right in his views, for he is improving."

"So much the better for us that he has no physician, for that removes one chance of our scheme being discovered. We must begin operations at once, and if anything stands in our way—why—we must remove it!"

Ezra Bangs nodded energetically, a cunning light gleaming in his small, sinister eyes.

CHAPTER II.

STRICKEN DOWN.

"Where are you off to now, Paul?" asked Fred Jessup, throwing aside the stump of the cigar he had been smoking and fixing a quizzical look upon a handsome young man of some twenty-five years o fage who was placing a saddle upon a horse a short distance away from the camp. "I'll wager a box of choice Havanas that I can guess your destination the first trial."

"I never bet," responded Paul Mayfield, good humoredly. "But—I don't mind telling you that I'm going on a little jaunt down into the valley."

"I thought so," was Fred's comment as he leaned his back against a stunted cedar, and fanned himself lazily with his broad-brimmed hat. "I don't envy you your journey, Paul, through this scorching sun, but dence take me if I don't think I'd brave even a worse climate if I stood the least chance of a smile from the little beauty down there."

A visible blush stole over Paul's face as he tightened the girth of his saddle. Then mounting, he said:

"If I am not back by supper time don't imagine I've been gobbled up by Apaches."

"Never fear—you are already in as secure captivity as if you were in the hands of the most blood-thirsty savages of the mountains—held by a pair of blue eyes and a bewitching face—but by George! old boy, I wouldn't mind being in the same sort of captivity if I stood in your shoes!"

"There, that will do, Fred," cried Paul, smiling. "You always was full of enthusiasm and—a little inclined to flatter. But what say you? Come, get your horse and come with me, and allow me to present you to Miss Bogford. You only had a glimpse of her as you rode by, and I'm sure she'll be pleased to meet you."

"Excuse me, please—'two is company,' and so forth, besides I'm not in the habit of playing second fiddle, so to speak. But you are anxious to be off. Don't let me detain you. Au revoir."

"Adios," cried Paul, and wheeling his horse, he rode down the slope toward the valley.

It was only a short time after midday, and from an unclouded sky the sun was beating fiercely upon the wide stretches of rock-strewn earth, and long lines of blackened and jagged cliffs that lay on either hand, as Paul Mayfield rode through the narrow defile that led to the plain below.

For two months he and his party had been in the Sierra Madre mountains employed by an irrigation company to make a hydrographic survey of that region, and now the work would soon be completed and he would return to his home in Los Angeles. Something like a pang of regret shot through his heart as the thought came to him, and visions of a sweet face rose before him—the face of Lucy Bogford. How many happy hours he had passed in her society, and his stay in the mountains seemed like a rapturous dream. But now he must soon take his departure from the scenes of his new-found happiness, and as he reflected on this, he realized that he had grown to love Lucy Bogford with all the intensity of his soul.

Did she reciprocate his love? Yes—surely she did, for did not her face light up at his coming? and did she not seem sad at his departure? The very thought filled him with rapture, yet there would come to his heart a strange and indefinable feeling of dread lest his bright hopes should be dissolved in disappointment. But he was determined to see her—to tell her of his love and ask her to be his wife, and he would do so this very day. He felt that he could not longer defer learning what his fate was to be.

He was thinking rapidly as he descended the rocky defile, and he wondered over and over if she had ever thought of him as a lover. How would she receive his declaration of love? They had only known each other for a few short weeks, and might she not consider that their acquaintance had been too brief to admit of his speaking of his love to her? How lonely she must feel there in that out of the way place, with only the companionship of her mother and invalid father!

A feeling of revolt rose in Paul's mind as he thought of how she was exiled from the world there in that lonely valley, and he longed for a time to come when he could take her from the place as his wife. Would that time ever come? Heaven only could tell.

Descending into the valley he quickened his pace and galloped swiftly across the sandy plain, the short grass sounding sharp and dry under his horse's hoofs. The heat was intense, and the very sands seemed scorched under the fierce rays of the blazing sun. The scattering trees that grew in the valley looked dry and parched, and with twisted and guarled branches reaching upward into the blazing light, seemed offering a mute appeal to the rainless sky.

Turning northward up the valley Paul rode on for nearly an hour, then over the tops of the stunted trees could be seen a weather-beaten ranch house built of adobe and rough boards, with here and there a little band of sheep cropping the scant herbage or lying motionless in the shadow of the trees.

He reined in his horse as he reached a small stream and allowed his thirsty animal to drink of the sparkling water that ran through the rocky channel with a low musical sound.

He drew out his watch—a handsome gold time piece—and consulted it.

"Half-past 2," he muttered, replacing the watch in his pocket. "Well, I am a little earlier than usual it seems."

He threw himself from his horse, and kneeling beside the stream drank deeply of the sparkling fluid.

So occupied was he with his own thoughts that he had not discovered the presence of two men who were seated in the shade of a clump of bushes close at hand. They were Mexicans of the lowest type, roughly clad, with broad sombreros half concealing their vicious and evil countenances.

A look of intense greed shone in their swarthy visages as they beheld the horseman's watch, and the taller of the two gave a violent start and clutched his companion by the arm, a whispered ejaculation escaping his lips. The other whispered something hurriedly in return, and instinctively they clutched the heavy sticks they had been carrying. Then as the horseman dismounted and knelt by the stream the evil pair rose hastily, and with common impulse stole quickly toward him.

Paul Mansfield heard a light step behind him, but as he attempted to rise he received a heavy blow upon the head and sank down limp and lifeless on the margin of the stream.

CHAPTER III.

THE BOGFORDS—EZRA BANGS'S VISIT.

Silas Bogford sat by the open window of the little adobe ranch house, propped up with pillows, a look of dejection upon his bearded face. Near him sat his wife, busily engaged in mending a well-worn garment. The room was scantily furnished with the rudest of furniture, but everything about the place was scrupulously clean, even to the adobe walls, which gleamed white as chalk in their coat of whitewash.

"It looks as if everything was goin' wrong," said Silas Bogford gloomily. "These rheumatiz air keepin' me hosed down by hyar when I orter be at work. The up hyar when I orter be at work. The varments air killin' off the sheep, an' all varments air killin' off the sheep, an' all the work comes on Lucy. It's jist too bad. If I don't git out perty soon I don't know what's goin' ter become of us."

"I trust that everything will come out right in the end," said Mrs. Bogford, hopefully.

Mr. Bogford shook his head.

"I hope so, too, but I'm afeerd it won't," he said. "I didn't expect ter have another attack of rheumatiz after vomin' hyar, but I was fooled this time. 'Lowed this country would jist sweat the rheumatiz all out of a fellow's system. Well, mebby it will if I give it time, for I am feelin' better for the last few days. But the worst thing is the money I owe on the ranch. Don't know how I'm goin' ter git it, now that ole 'Squire Sams is failed an' beat me out of the thousand dollars he owed me. He's one of the slyest ole coons in Nebrasky, an' I'd orter knowed better than ter trust him. But it can't be helped now, an' I reckon I'll lose the ranch an' all I've paid on it in the end."

"God grant it may not be so," said Mrs. Bogford, tears gleaming in her eyes.

At this juncture a girl of about 19 came in from an adjoining room, where she had been washing the dinner dishes. She was tall and of graceful build, with a profusion of light blonde hair twisted artistically about her well-shaped head. Her eyes were large and of a deep violet, while her complexion was of that peculiar olive tint that defies even the scorching sun of the tropics.

"Do you think we're going to lose the ranch, father?" she asked, a troubled look coming over her countenance. "Surely Mr. Garcia will grant a longer time to raise the money when he knows how we are situated."

Mr. Bogford shook his head gloomily.

"I ain't got much hopes," he said. "He has given instructions ter Banks ter collect the money due an' send it ter him at Prescott. I had Bangs write ter him for a longer time ter meet the debt in, after I found I couldn't git my money from 'Squire Sams, but he won't wait any longer. I reckon we'll lose everything, an' if we do Lord only knows what will become of us." He uttered a faint moan as he spoke, and buried his face in his hands.

Luc

ARE PROUD OF HAWAII

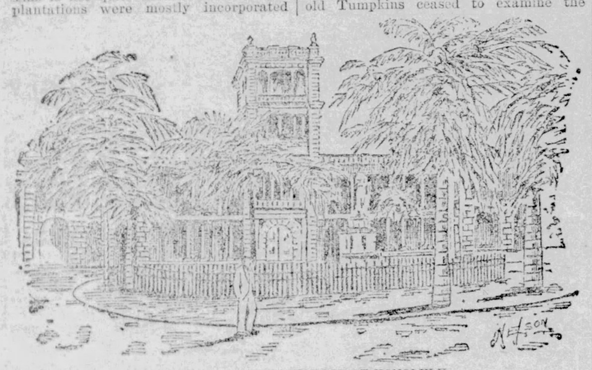
NATIVES DON'T WANT TO ANNEX

They Prefer to Remain a Separate Government and Not to Join the United States—The Question Assuming Proportions.

The question of the annexation of Hawaii is one of the things this country will have to discuss presently. The Pacific coast is taking a decided interest in the problem. Hawaii, up to date, does not show any eagerness to be annexed.

The present business situation in the Islands is summed up in a sentence by the San Francisco Examiner—Hawaii has put its eggs into one basket.

Years ago Honolulu depended entirely upon the whaling industry; then there came the reciprocity treaty with the United States, and much of their capital and all that could be borrowed was put into sugar plantations. People there who talk about the importance of the American interests in the Hawaiian Islands will tell you that of the $30,000,000 invested in sugar plantations nearly $25,000,000 is American money. This is not quite accurate. The sugar plantations were mostly incorporated



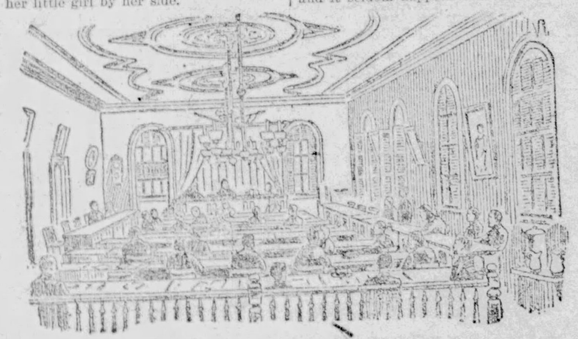
THE GOVERNMENT BUILDING AT HONOLULU.

under the reciprocity treaty. They were enormously profitable. One plantation paid 80 per cent profit the first year of its operation, and several others paid 60 per cent on the par value of the stock. In but few cases was the stock fully paid up. After the first year of enormous profits every one became anxious to buy sugar stocks in the Hawaiian Islands, and they advanced very rapidly in value.

The McKinley bill changed all that, however. Of course, it is very nice for California to ship $5,000,000 or $6,000,000 of goods to Hawaii and take in return $12,000,000 or $13,000,00 worth of Hawaiian sugars, of which a great portion of the profits are spent in California, but that isn't helping the Hawaiian Islands.

Now, the people of Hawaii, having tasted the luxury of idleness, and having achieved sufficient means to acquire all of the pleasures of living, having unlimited servants at their command, and good servants, too, find it hard to get along now that the McKinley bill has cut off the main source of their income; but the islands are not going to England for all that.

All talk of the predominance of British interests in Hawaii because of the queen's leaning toward the English is nonsense. Many years ago Lord George Paulet, commander of a British man-of-war, seized the islands in the name of Victoria and hoisted the British flag. The king's prime minister was a missionary named Judd, father of the present chief justice of the islands. Paulet threatened Judd he would take him off in his ship unless he would give up the keys of the treasury and disclose the hiding place of the wealth he expected to find. Judd, fearing for his liberty, hid in the tomb of the chiefs, and Lord George Paulet was furious because he could not find him. He went to Judd's house, where he found Mrs. Judd, with her little girl by her side.



THE HAWAIIAN PARLIAMENT IN SESSION.

"Where is Mr. Judd?" demanded the brave officer.

"I do not know," was the wife's truthful answer.

Seizing a bayonet from one of the men, Paulet thrust it at Mrs. Judd, saying:

"I will run you through if you do not tell me where your husband is hiding."

"My husband expected you might do something of the kind," was the wife's reply, "and so he refused to tell me his hiding place. Now, you coward, kill me, if you please."

Paulet contented himself with reviling Mrs. Judd, though he did not find her husband. The islanders hate the English, and this story supplies one of the reasons.

As it stands to-day Hawaii is governed by the legislative assembly of four cabinet officers, 24 nobles and 24 representatives.

There are about 11,000 voters in the Islands, of whom about 3,000 are natives. Were it not for the property qualification for nobles the Kanakas would control nearly all the voters in the legislative assembly.

In determining the feeling of the Hawaiian people on the question of annexation it must be taken into consideration that the nobles, as a rule, represent the foreign property-holding element and the representatives the natives, who have a majority of 8,000 to 3,000 and who would most likely demand the chance to express their wishes by an open plebiscite before they became a part of the United States.

The natives do not want annexation, because they are proud of their history, on good terms with the queen and generally satisfied with their own way of living. They know enough of the white man's laws to prefer their own, which fit the conditions of their life.

What is the use of a strong government to a race of people who can use the floor to sit on, eat from with their fingers, cook fish in a leaf, and make a picnic out of one small pig and a gallon of gin? Hunger is unknown, for when one Kanaka lady does not possess a scarlet koloku to wear at a feast she borrows one from her cousin, and when the family taro patch has given out the whole family goes to board with a neighbor. Shoes and stockings are an ostentatious display akin to the Chicago lady's wearing of diamonds at breakfast, and the only ornaments the people care for are strings of flowers they call lais. The flowers grow wild and when the Kanakas need a little money they make more lais than they can wear and sell them to tourists.

The annexation of Hawaii may be divided into three classes.

First—Those Americans who see the strategic advantage the possession of the islands would be to the United States, and who are moved by patriotic feelings only.

Second—Those Americans who have lands to sell in the vicinity of Pearl Harbor, or who have such ships as ocean cable franchises that would be useful if Pearl Harbor was a grand United States naval rendezvous.

Third—Those foreigners and native-born capitalists who fear for their investments on account of the revolutionary tendency of Kanaka politicians, or who feel that the financial plans could be operated to greater advantage if the islands were under the Stars and Stripes.

Opposed to these among the whites are the patriotic British and those whose business interests would be injured by annexation.

The white opposition to annexation is both selfish and patriotic, and sometimes intelligent. Sugar is mostly raised by contract Chinese and Japanese labor that is paid from $12 to $17 per month.

The planters who use this class of labor oppose annexation because the United States labor laws forbid labor contracts and labor importation.

MR. TUMPKINS' CLERKS.

How They Carelessly Fell into Error With Direful Results.

There are a number of good jobs open in a certain big dry goods house in Chicago just at present.

It happened in this way. Old Tumpkins is an exact employer, who insists on accuracy in everything. But he is kind withal, and several years ago he granted his several clerks a certain amount of grace for arriving in the morning. This liberality, however, was only given upon the distinct understanding that each person should write down the exact cause of his tardiness on a list provided. For a while this idea was carried out, but after some months old Tumpkins ceased to examine the list and the employes became correspondingly careless.

Most of the clerks lived in the suburbs and the first one to arrive usually wrote "cable broke," as the cause of the delay, or "fire engines blocked the track," or "got bridged," and the rest of the clerks would invariably hurry in and write "ditto" under it. This formal procedure had become so much a habit that they never took the pains to look at the cause subscribed by the first. Hence the disaster.

The other morning the first arrival conscientiously penned the words, "Wife ill—twins."

As it happened this morning old Tumpkins picked up the list for the first time in months. He read "wife ill—twins," with some astonishment, but when he saw it dittoed down the entire list his eyes stood out like bolt-heads on a boiler, and as he saw the small cramped ditto opposite the office boy's name he uttered a piercing shriek and fled from the place.

The old-time list is now abolished and old Tumpkins is having an expert examine his ledgers for three years back. —Chicago Tribune.

THE ATHLETIC GIRL.

Foot Ball Interests Her To-day as Fancy Work Once Did.

Any one who has the old fogy notion that girls are frail, delicate creatures, enjoying only needlework and crocheting and in dense ignorance of all manly sports, would wake up with a start if they were to find themselves at any of the intercollegiate games these days and see the great number of women spectators who are not only interested in foot ball because they know some men on the eleven, but from a genuine appreciation and knowledge of the game.

Fierce partisans are these girls wearing the colors of their favorite team, and it seldom happens that there is one present who has in tow some unhappy escort who volunteers to tell her the rules of the game and the good points in the play. Of course such novices do occasionally attend, but as a rule the girls know as much about the play as any man present, and are quick to applaud in their own enthusiastic feminine way a "touch down" or a "good punt."

And what an amount of personal discomfort they endure for the sake of the athletic fad. Hands grow cold and noses blue as the chill winds sweep over the grand stand and cause little uncomfortable shivers to run up and down one's spinal column, but they stay it out and, even if they take severe colds, are just as anxious to attend the very next match, even though they are still suffering from the effects of a former one.—Philadelphia Times.

Room for One Only.

Clara—What do you think of my new muff?

Maude—Lovely. But where do you put your other hand?—N. Y. Herald.

Mrs. A. A. Williams
Lynn, Mass.

For the Good of Others

Rev. Mr. Williams Heartily Endorses Hood's Sarsaparilla.

We are pleased to present this from Rev. A. A. Williams, of the Sillsbee street Christian Church, Lynn, Mass.:

"I see no reason why a clergyman, more than a layman, who knows whereof he speaks, should hesitate to approve an

Article of Merit

and worth, from which he or his family have been signally benefited, and whose commendation may serve to extend those benefits to others. My wife has for many years been a sufferer from severe

Nervous Headache

for which she found little help. She has tried many things that promised well but performed little. Last fall she took Hood's Sarsaparilla. It seems surprising what one bottle could and did do for her. The attacks of headache decreased in number and were less violent in their intensity, while her general health has been improved. Her appetite is also better. From experience with

Hood's Sarsaparilla

I have no hesitation in endorsing its merits." A. A. WILLIAMS.

HOOD'S PILLS are the best family cathartic, gentle and effective. Try a box.

JUST FULL of improvements—Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. To begin with, they're the smallest, and the easiest to take. They're tiny, sugar-coated antibilious granules, scarcely larger than mustard seeds. Every child is ready for them.

Then, after they're taken, instead of disturbing and shocking the system, they act in a mild, easy, and natural way. There's no chance for any reaction afterward. Their help *lasts*. Constipation, Indigestion, Bilious Attacks, Sick or Bilious Headaches, and all derangements of the liver, stomach, and bowels are promptly relieved and permanently cured.

They're put up in glass vials, which keeps them always fresh and reliable, unlike the ordinary pills in wooden or pasteboard boxes.

And they're the *cheapest* pills you can buy, for they're *guaranteed* to give satisfaction, or your money is returned. You pay only for the *good* you get.

The Farmstead.

INFORMATION WANTED.

Has Thrush.

E. E. G., Michigan: Your mare is suffering from a disease known as thrush, or frush of the frog. Poultice the foot for 48 hours, and give a cathartic of aloes, 3 drachms; bicarbonate of soda, 1 oz, in a pint of warm (not hot) water. Then have the frog well cleaned and all excessive growth cut away. Then take of sweet oil, 2 ozs.; calomel, 1-2 oz. The cleft of the frog must be cleaned to the bottom by see-sawing a little tow or soft band through it. Mix the oil and calomel well, and spread on a piece of lint or oakum, and work it into the bottom of the cleft with a sharp stick. It should also be applied to all other diseased parts. If the mare becomes feverish on account of the discharge stopping, remove the lint and poultice the foot, afterwards reapplying the lint. The stall should be kept clear of all droppings and urine.

Horse Stiff in Hind Legs.

D. H., Michigan: Your horse has light attacks of rheumatism. A poultice of flaxseed and meal with a little mustard in it, to the feet is a good thing, followed by mixing this into 12 powders and giving one every night in his feed: Nux vomica, 1 oz.; pulverized gentian root, 1 1-2 ozs.; pulverized ginger, 1 oz. Keep the floor of the stall dry and well littered with clean straw. Do not give corn while under treatment.

Horse Lame for Ten Months.

J. F. I., Missouri: If, as you suppose, your horse is suffering from a sprain, he should have a long rest. If the pain is confined to the pastern joint, rub a little of the following in once a day, extending the applications up the back tendons for six or seven inches: Biniodide of mercury, 1 drachm; lard, 1 oz. Before beginning with this ointment bathe pastern with hot water for a day or two. A bucket may be filled half full of water and the horse's foot placed in it. The trouble may not be on account of a corn, if the pain is in the forefoot, or it may be navicular disease. Feel the hoof and see if it has fever in it. See if there is anything like contraction of the foot developing.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Decay of Quince Fruit.

There is a destructive form of quince decay about which the growers of quinces are much exercised. The fruit is the object of the attack, and in nearly all cases the rot begins at the blossom end. It is a dry decay and the affected portion turns a light brown, followed soon by multitudes of small pimples slightly darker than the surrounding brown. The decay penetrates to the core and ultimately involves the whole fruit.

In one orchard of a hundred trees recently visited, nearly half of the fruit, otherwise large and fine, was found with a rot-spot ranging from a mere speck at the blossom end to entire decay. It may be that some substance applied to the blossom end will assist in preserving the fruit from attack. It is possible that the tender parts of the flower may be the ones most susceptible, and by removing these when the quince is small, the enemy may be successfully resisted. Thus the calyx lobes might be removed, as they generally become brown and, lying upon the surface of the fruit, probably assist in giving the rot-fungus a foothold. It would be practicable to remove the useless parts of the blossom end of the fruit, as quinces are within easy reach of the ground, and usually only a few trees are grown. This treatment would be in addition to the spraying of quince trees to ward off common leaf-blight, an entirely different fungus. The enemy of the fruit is sphaeropsis cydoniae. It also preys upon the foliage and was, in fact, described from specimens from leaves. It has not, this season, been found upon the foliage of the trees.

The decaying fruit is worthless and should be picked off and burned. If left upon the trees or ground, the fungus will mature a vast number of its oval brown spores and menace the quince crop next year.

Cherry on Plum.

The cultivated cherry unites very freely with the wood of the Miner or its seedlings, and it will also work on the De Soto, or any one of the free-growing native plums. We have a Russian cherry top from a graft set in a Miner sprout ten years ago. It has borne bountiful crops, and the tree has been in good shape until recently. It outgrew the stock, and the enlarged swelling at the point of union split open, which will soon end its usefulness. We graft in the usual way very early in the spring. The stocks need some care the first and second season. The rapid growth of the top is at the expense of the stock. The naturally tough outer bark of the plum stock becomes stronger, and when the time comes for new growth it utterly refuses to expand. Hence, if the outer bark is not slit from the scion down to the earth in two or three places, both stock and scion will die. This trouble can be avoided by grafting the cherry into the top of a plum seedling, which is branched to within a foot or two of the earth. By pinching back the points of growth of the plum, the cherry scions are not swamped, and we will have cherries and plums on the same tree. We know of plum trees grafted in this way fifteen years ago, which have had regular crops of cherries in the top, even when the cherry crop was a failure on cherry roots.—Prof. Budd.

To Dress and Ship Turkeys.

Four weeks before killing time begin feeding twice a day with fatty food, meal, boiled pumpkins, corn, etc., and three times a week throw in a pan of feed two or three handfuls of charcoal or wood ashes. Kill so that the dressed fowls may hang over Sunday, and be shipped on an early train Monday morning, then one has the best chance for sale. Hang the turkeys to a pole, and cut the back of the roof of the mouth with a sharp-pointed knife. We scald them in the kitchen in a boiler. Dip in scalding water till scalded enough and roll in a basket or piece of carpet to sweat. Now wash the feet or head, if dirty or bloody.

Hang up to a hook, by a slip noose above the feet, and strip off most of the feathers into a tub which should stand beneath. It is much easier to hang them up than to hold them. Finish the picking with the turkey on your lap. Let me caution you not to touch the feathered legs, and to leave the feathers on them until the rest is done, for the skin is very tender there. When the feathers are off, hold the tuft in the scalding water about 30 minutes, then quickly souce it into ice water, and leave until the tub gets full. Hang up by the feet.

Now to pack Monday morning. Turn the head under a wing, and pack the turkeys singly in a box with clean straw between them. Don't let the turkeys to be killed have anything to eat for 24 hours before killing. All there is to do in dressing them is to take the feathers off. Don't be discouraged if half the turks hatched die. Two more than half of ours died, and then we raised 30 from three hens. We shipped 19 and received a check for $24. We hope to raise 100 from eight hens next summer. —C. I. Ireland in Homestead.

Care of Farm Horses.

A correspondent of the American Agriculturalist says: It is apparent, even to an indifferent observer, that the general run of farm horses do not have that smooth and well-cared-for look that the majority of the horses of city transportation and car companies possess; though the latter, on an average, do vastly more work in a year than the horses upon the farm. The secret of the matter is in the care and feed. Farm horses receive, as a rule, too little attention as to grooming, and are fed too commonly without regard to a balancing of the ration. Farm horses almost invariably eat too much hay, which distends the stomach when taken in large quantities, prevents that organ from doing its full duty, and makes the horse dull and weak.

Many farmers have no regular ration for their horses, but throw down a forkful of hay almost every time they enter the barn. As a result many of these horses are eating hay from morning till night, to the manifest disadvantage of the hay mow, and the manifest disadvantage also of the horses, whose bodies become distended, skins dry and coats rough, while the digestive organs are thrown out of gear, so that the animal's whole system becomes impaired. The farmer declares that he can not afford to feed such a ration as is fed to horses in city stables. Well, the value of hay that is worse than wasted, when fed in the enormous quantities mentioned, if expended for grain, would make a vast improvement in the condition and appearance of the horses, and would involve no extra expense whatever. This is a point that farmers ought to consider, for on it hinges a horse's measure of efficiency in doing his work.

A small ration of hay fed with regularity three times a day, and a suitable grain ration carefully incorporated with it, with water twice a day, and a thorough grooming, will make of a spiritless, rough coated horse, with distended body, in four cases out of five, a much more alert, a handsomer, and vastly more efficient animal. The grain ration should be of ground or cracked corn, and ground oats and bran, the grain being mixed with the hay, so that the hay and grain will have to be eaten together, as it has been found that in this way the grain is much more fully digested. As to the amount of grain that shall help to make up a ration, that must depend on circumstances, the ability of the owner to provide the grain, or, perhaps, better, his inclination to provide the grain, and also work which the horse is called upon to do. The thing of chief importance is to get farmers to discard a part of the hay rotation and substitute for this discarded hay at least its value in the more condensed nutrition of corn, oats or bran; the rest will naturally follow. Corn has too much oil to be fed alone.

The same idea holds good in respect to growing colts, with the exception that corn should not be fed them. On hundreds of farms are to be seen dull-eyed, rough-haired, undersized and spiritless colts, whose distended bodies, during the winter season, show plainly that they are the victims of too much hay or straw, and too little of the concentrated and nutritious oats and bran. Thousands of colts are annually raised that are not worth even the care and cost of the hay they consume; but if a colt is worth raising at all, it pays to fully develop its possibilities by adequate and nutritious feed. If it does not pay to feed any animal on the farm properly, it is pretty certain that it does not pay to keep that animal on the farm at all, and the sooner the farmer recognizes that point the better it will be for his pocketbook.

Green Food for Winter.

Of all green food which can be used for the poultry in the winter time nothing is superior to the whole apples or mangold beets. In looking over the apples to be taken to market there is always a grade unfit for sale. I mention whole ones, for I think it is much better to put them in the houses whole, say three or four good-sized ones to a flock of ten hens at a time, than to chop them fine. In this way the fowls are given something to do. Pecking at the fruit and scratching for grain among leaves or chaff goes a good way toward keeping them in thrift and prevents the accumulation of fat, which certainly will come if they are stuffed with corn and corn meal and allowed to stand around all day and do nothing. Rather than feed the meal clear, use half fine feed and mix some of the small potatoes and turnips which have been boiled soft in the morning meal. Thus they get a very good allowance of vegetable food and with the other conditions of warmth, cleanness, sunlight and dry surroundings they ought to lay well.—N. E. Homestead.

Device for Hanging Hogs.

R. A. Brown, Sand Beach, Mich., writes Orange Judd Farmer: The illustration represents a handy contrivance for hanging dressed animals of any kind. A is a derrick, made of three poles, or 2x4 scantling 16 feet long, secured at the top by a bolt or chain. Spread these eight feet apart at base. Bore a hole in one of the poles 1 1-2 or 2 inches in diameter, and about 2 feet from the base. Then insert a bolt or wooden pin, square one end, and put on a crank. Let the other end extend about a foot through the post, and put a small bolt or pin hole through it near the post, by which to fasten the suspending rope. The rope will then wind around the large bolt, as it is being turned by the crank. Then have another small hole one inch in diameter through the post, about six inches above the first, in which a wooden pin can be placed to keep the crank from unwinding. The pulley at the top is suspended from the bolt connecting the three supports, and the rope running through is long enough to reach the object raised. A rope 25 feet long and 3-4 of an inch in diameter is strong enough. It costs 25 cents, and will hang a bull if he weighs a ton. This derrick can be set directly over B, which simply consists of a post set in the ground, with two strong sticks run through holes at the top. For hanging hogs those sticks may be 4 feet long and better be made of hard wood two by four inches in thickness. One post constructed thus will support four hogs. To elevate the animal, tie the end of winding rope to the gamble and turn the crank until the hind legs are a little above the arms of B, swing the hog over one arm, unwind the crank. The hog is thus easily suspended ready for cleaning and removing insides. With this contrivance a 14-year-old boy can hang a 500-lb hog with only moderate exercise, and can do it in a minute. The cost of the derrick complete will not exceed one dollar, and will last a life-time if it is properly taken care of.

Humane Thought for Horses.

The harness should be adjusted so that it does not gall the animal, and the collar must be properly be looked after. This must be small enough so that it will not wabble and create sores, and large enough that the horse can easily breathe when the muscles are inflated and pressed against it. The use of sweat pads is to be recommended if the collar does not properly fit the neck, by reason of a falling away in flesh; or, as is the case with some horses, whose flesh is easily irritated by friction, it is often advisable to have two sets of those pads in order to get them thoroughly dried out between times.

The driver who walks behind a plow team feels the necessity of repeatedly quenching his thirst as perspiration and exercise diminishes the bodily moisture, so that he often refreshes himself from the kept-cool water-jug. Now, a horse is not unlike a man in this regard, and he appreciates a moderately cool drink as well as his master. It is not a difficult matter to supply this want if the driver cares enough for the comfort of his team to provide for it. A milk can or some sort of a barrel can easily be taken to the field on a stone-boat or in the wagon, and a few quarts of water to each horse once or twice during the half-day will make existence happier for the horse, and in hot days such attentions are simply acts of mercy.—Farm, Stock and Home.

THERE IS HOPE

For every one who has blood trouble, no matter in what shape or how long standing, provided none of the vital organs have been so far impaired as to render a cure impossible. S. S. S. goes to the root of the disease, and removes the poison, by expelling the poison from the body, and at the same time is a tonic to the whole system, however bad your case may be, there is hope

FOR YOU.

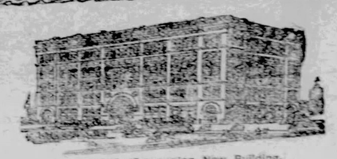
S.S.S. Cured me of a most malignant type of chronic blood trouble, for which I had used various other remedies without effect. My weight increased, and my health improved in every way. I consider S.S.S. the best tonic I ever used.

"S. A. WRIGHT, Midway, Ga."

Treatise on blood, skin and contagious blood poison mailed free. SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., Atlanta, Ga.

The History of Ben Hur and Rudder Grange in

THE YOUTH'S COMPANION



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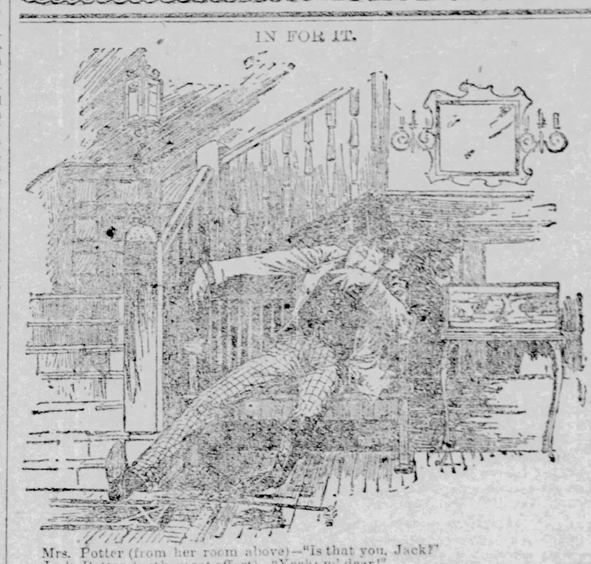

Mrs. Potter (from her room above)—"Is that you, Jack?"
Jack Potter (with great effort)—"Yash; m' dear!"
Mrs. Potter—"Will you bring that aquarium up when you come? I am afraid it is too cold for the fish there."—Puck.

Question Bureau.

Rules.—1.—Real name and address must be written with every question. 2.—Only one question at a time. 3.—Don't ask for addresses of persons, or of firms, nor where to buy or sell anything, for such answers are free advertising. 4.—Don't ask about the reliability of any person or firm. 5.—We reserve the right to reject any question whose answer would not be of general interest, and will answer no mathematical problems, questions of law, etc. 6.—No answers by mail.

Christmas.

F. R. M., Huntington, W. Va.: Christmas is observed on December 25 of each year, as the anniversary of the birth of Christ. Its institution is attributed by the deceital letters to Pope Telesphorus, who died A. D. 138. At first it was the most movable of the Christian festivals, often confounded with the Epiphany, and celebrated in the Eastern church in April or May. In the fourth century the urgency of St. Cyril of Jerusalem obtained from Pope Julius I an order for an investigation to be made concerning the day of Christ's nativity. The result of inquiry by the theologians was an agreement upon the day now observed—December 25. The chief grounds for the decision were the tables of the consors in the archives of Rome. It has also been a common tradition that Christ was born about the middle of the night. The custom of singing carols on Christmas, which recalled the songs of the shepherds at the birth of Christ, dates from the time when the common people ceased to understand Latin. In the Protestant districts of Germany, Christmas is often called the "Children's festival," and Christmas eve is devoted to giving presents. The custom prevailed formerly of selecting some person who, in white robes and a mask, would go from house to house distributing these presents. This bugbear became known as Knecht Rupert. In the United States the day is a legal holiday in several of the states, and the German Christmas customs are generally followed. Santa Claus is the American representative of the German Knecht Rupert.

The Silver Dollar.

J. B. A., Birmingham, Mich.: "Why is not 100 cents worth of silver or bullion put into a silver dollar?"

When the coinage ratio between silver and gold was fixed at 16 to 1 the silver dollar contained a gold dollar's worth of silver, and it so remained until about 1873. The annual production of silver and the enormous yield of the bonanza mines of the West have been the means of decreasing the price of silver each year, until it has reached its present low and unprofitable price. The yearly production of silver is not consumed, but much of it is stored away in the coined state and in bullion. Gold has, during the past 25 years, maintained about the same absolute value. The supply each year is so near to the demand that the price does not fluctuate to any material extent. The free silver men erroneously think that free coinage would raise the price of silver so that the old ratio would again be correct.

Nicaragua Canal.

H. R., Cairo, W. Va.: The construction of a canal connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans has been under contemplation for years. In 1781 a route was surveyed by Manuel Galisteo, by order of the Spanish government; in 1838 by John Baily, for the government of Central America, and in 1851 by the Chilean government. The Atlantic and Pacific Ship Canal company. Since that time the project has lain dormant until the present scheme was agitated last summer by the merchants and business men of the country generally of California. The preliminary work is well under way and if the United States government decides to take a hand in the thing, it will very likely be constructed.

The Cherokee Strip.

L. H., Hanover, Tex.: The questions you ask about the Cherokee strip are yet undecided. No one can yet tell whether it will be homesteaded or sold at the government rate of $1.50 per acre. We shall give all news on this subject, just as soon as it comes from Washington, in our news columns. Watch the 7th and 8th pages of the Weekly Blade every week.

We would question on this subject would remember that the government has not yet decided when the strip will be opened, how it is to be opened, how the land is to be disposed of nor any of those things. They are questions to know. Just as soon as they are decided we will print the information.

The Walker Tariff Law.

W. G., Brandon, Vt., asks: "Was the Walker tariff of 1857 and 1858 raised or lowered, enough to make a notable difference in the revenue of the country, or was it merely adjusted so as to make it protective?"

The Walker tariff law was enacted in 1847, and amended in 1857, so as to greatly lower the duties. After it went into effect, the distress of the people was so great, that the Morrill bill, repealing it and imposing protective duties, was passed by a Democratic Congress elected on a free trade platform, during the winter of '60-'61, and signed by a Democratic President—James Buchanan—just before he went out of office.

Condition of Wages.

J. M. A., Ipava, Ill.: Your question, if answered exhaustively, would require much space than we can be at our disposal. We think it is an undisputed fact that the general average of wages paid in this country is higher than ever before. Within the past three months the wages of the cotton operatives has been raised 7 per cent, and we do not hear of any especial complaints from any direction. The country was never more prosperous at any time than it is now. Wages are gradually advancing all over the country. There being no woolen mills at this point, we are unable to give the exact wages of workers on blankets.

As to Naturalization.

J. M., Drummond, Wis.: Naturalization is a federal right, a gift of the Union, not of a state. The law regarding aliens is that his first papers must be taken out two years before his admission to citizenship. The federal naturalization laws apply alike to the entire union. The law is no different in Massachusetts, (the state you refer to,) except that he must have paid tax within two years, of the time he offers his vote.

Miscellaneous.

D. D., Eaton: There is no premium on half dollars of 1826.

F. J., Sanilac Center, Mich.: We are afraid we cannot find room for the songs.

S. D. N., Columbus, O.: The president of the French republic is chosen by the national assembly.

F. F., Burnham, Mich.: The name "Locke" is pronounced "lock," to rhyme with "clock," "mock," "stock," etc.

S. T. A., Marengo, Ind.: We have nothing of the sort. Write to W. C. T. U. headquarters, La Salle st., Chicago.

E. B. C., Ludington, Mich.: Our arrangements are such that we cannot use short stories for several months to come.

F. P. T., Okawville, Ill.: Only one of the Blade's political pamphlets has been issued so far. It was advertised in The Trade last summer.

J. W. R., Plainview, Texas: By applying to any bookseller you can ascertain where you can get Schwatka's "Along Alaska's Great River."

E. N., Athens, Ill.: If you mean that an evil spirit of discontent and dissatisfaction was abroad in the land November 8, we heartily agree with you.

C. A. E., Abner, Tenn., and J. W. O., Hillsboro, Ill.: See article headed "The Popular Vote," in column, 4th page, of Weekly Blade of Dec. 15.

R. J. B., Walnut Grove, O.: Your poem is hardly up to the standard of publication, but has promise. Keep on writing, but do not be in a hurry to get into print.

Mrs. C. C., Climax, Mich.: You can ascertain all of the final official report of the World's Fair by addressing "World's Fair Commission, Chicago, Ill."

S. A. B., Toledo, O.: We do not know the maiden name of the wife of the late Gov. Wilson Shannon, of Ohio. If any of our readers can furnish us with the information, we will be thankful.

J. S. H., Beaver Creek, Colo.: There are about 3,000 first-class postoffices in the country. Postoffices are classified according to the population of cities and towns wherein they are located.

W. H. B., Montpelier, Ind.: The exact date of the introduction of Christianity into Great Britain is not known by us, but it was during the time of Constantine, who commenced his reign A. D. 306.

A. correspondent from Tracy, Minn., writes that special punishment is in vogue in that state. The law has probably been amended within the past few years. Formerly hanging in Minnesota was prohibited by the state constitution.

A. N., Burton, Kan.: The duty on Canadian lumber is the same as on any other imported lumber. We presume you mean sawed boards, and on this the duty is $2 per thousand feet board measure. The duty is according to the form the lumber is in.

W. L. M., Moundsville, W. Va.: The constitution of the United States provides that the Presidential electors shall meet and give their votes on the second Monday in January next thereafter, therefore the Blade cannot publish the total vote at the Presidential election until the official vote of each state is given out. This has not yet been done.

C. M., Washington, Colo.: We cannot undertake to publish a list of chronological events of the year in these columns, as you request, for various reasons. At the close of each year the events are compiled and published by several firms, who make a specialty of that very thing. You can ascertain where it may be procured of some bookseller in your town.

A. W., Eberle, Ill.: Land offices are located in the following Kansas towns and cities: Garden City, Kirwin, Larned, Oberlin, Salina, Topeka and Wakeeney. In Nebraska, at Alliance, Bloomington, Broken Bow, Chadron, Grand Island, Lincoln, McCook, Neligh, North Platte, O'Neill, Sidney and Valentine. Address letter of inquiry to "Register of the U. S. Land Office," at either of these places for the information you desire.

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The Government Gives 5,000,000 Souvenir Coins to the World's Fair.

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CASH BUYERS' UNION, 160 W. Van Buren St., B. 311, Chicago.

Room for One Only.

Clara—What do you think of my new muff?

Maude—Lovely. But where do you put your other hand?—N. Y. Herald.

How Those Girls Love One Another.

Miss Elder—There is such a craze for the antique now.

Miss Flypp—Indeed? How many proposals have you had?—Truth.

A CHILD ENJOYS

The pleasant flavor, gentle action and soothing effect of Syrup of Figs, when in need of a laxative, and if the father or mother be costive or bilious, the most gratifying results follow its use, so that it is the best family remedy known and every family should have a bottle.

Philosophy.

Great thoughts are mariners of the mind,
With strong white sails unfurled ever;
Words are the vessels that find
To bear them round the world.
—Hebrew Standard.

If any young, old or middle-aged man suffering from nervous debility, weakness, lack of vigor from errors of excesses will enclose stamp to me I will send him the prescription of a genuine certain cure free of cost. No humbug, no deception. Address J. D. House Lock Box B, Albion, Mich.

Christopher's Oversight.

Schoolma'am—Why was it that his great discovery was not properly appreciated until long after Columbus was dead?

Nineteenth century schoolboy—Because he didn't advertise.—Puck.

—When the scalp is atrophied, or shiny-bald, no preparation will restore the hair; in all other cases, Hall's Hair Renewer will start a growth.

Keeping Her Promise.

He—"I haven't seen you dancing yet, Mrs. Kidcomb."

She—"No; I promised my husband not to dance to-night."

He—"Then it's no use asking you for a dance."

She—Oh, yes, it is. The night will soon be over. It only wants five minutes to 12.—Ally Sloper.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria.
When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria.
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria.
When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

Talmage's Sermon.

THE ASTRONOMY OF THE BIBLE.

Relation of God to the Natural World as Disclosed in the Bible—Wider Religious Thought.

The subject chosen by Dr. Talmage for the initial sermon on "God in the Natural World" was "The Astronomy of the Bible, or God Among the Stars," the text being from Amos, ix. 6: "It is he that buildeth his stories in the heavens." Preceding the sermon, the great congregation sang Isaac Watts's hymn:

The heavens declare thy glory, Lord,
In every star thy wisdom shines.

That is first-rate poetry from Amos, the herdsman. While guarding his flocks at night he got to watching the heavens. He saw stars above stars, and the universe seemed to him like a great mansion, many stories high, silver room above silver room, silver pillars beside silver pillars, and windows of silver, and turrets and domes of silver rising into the immensities; and the prophet's sanctified imagination walks through that great silver palace of the universe, through the first story, through the second story, through the third story, through the twentieth story, through the hundredth story, through the thousandth story, and realizing that God is the architect, and carpenter, and mason of all that upheaved splendor, he cries out in the words of the text: "It is he that buildeth his stories in the heavens."

My hearers, it is time that we widened out and heightened our religious thoughts. In our pulpits and our Sabbath school classes and Christian work of all sorts we ring the changes on a few verses of Scripture until they excite no interest. Many of the best parts of the Bible have never yet been preached from, or indeed never noticed. Hence, I to-day begin a series of sermons, not for consecutive Sabbath mornings, but as often as I think it best for variety's sake, on "The Astronomy of the Bible, or God Among the Stars;" "The Geology of the Bible, or God Among the Rocks;" "The Ornithology of the Bible, or God Among the Birds;" "The Ichthyology of the Bible, or God Among the Fishes;" "The Pomology of the Bible, or God Among the Orchards;" "The Precious Stones of the Bible, or God Among the Amethysts;" "The Conchology of the Bible, or God Among the Shells;" "The Botany of the Bible, or God Among the Flowers;" "The Chronology of the Bible, or God Among the Centuries." The fact is that we all have spent too much time on one story of the great mansion of God's universe. We need occasionally to go upstairs or downstairs in this mansion, downstairs and in the cellar, study the rocks, or upstairs and see God in some of the higher stories, and learn the meaning of the text when it says, "It is he that buildeth his stories in the heaven."

Astronomy was born in Chaldea. Its mother was Astrology, or the science of foretelling events by juxtaposition of stars. The Orientals, living much out of doors and in a very clear atmosphere, through which the stars shone especially lustrous, got the habit of studying the night heavens. In the hot seasons caravans journeyed chiefly at night, and that gave travelers much opportunity of stellar information. On the first page of the Bible the sun and the moon and stars roll in, the sun, a body nearly three million miles in circumference and more than twelve thousand times as large as our earth; the moon, more than two thousand miles in diameter. But God is used to doing things on such an omnipotent scale that he takes only one verse to tell of this stellar and lunar manufacture. Yea, in three words all the other worlds are thrown in. The record says, "The stars also!" It takes whole pages for a man to extol the making of a telescope or microscope or a magnetic telegraph, or a sewing machine, or to describe a fine painting or statue, but it was so easy for God to hang the celestial upholstery that the story is compassed in one verse: "God made two great lights, the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night. The stars also!" Astronomers have been trying to call the roll of them ever since, and they have counted multitudes of them passing in review, but at what vast expense, and the size and number of those heavenly bodies have taxed to the utmost the scientists of all ages. But God finishes all he has to say about them in three words. "The stars also!" That is Mars, with its more than five-fifty million square miles, and Venus, with its more than one hundred and ninety-one million square miles, and Saturn, with its more than nineteen billion square miles, and Jupiter, with its more than twenty-four billion square miles, and all the planets of a system of more than seventy-eight billion square miles, and these stars of our system, when compared with the stars of the other systems, as a handful of sand compared with all the Rocky Mountains and Alps. "The stars also!" For brevity, for ponderosity, for splendor, for suggestiveness, for sublimity piled on sublimity, these words excel all that human speech or human pen or human imagination ever soared after: "The stars also!" It is put in as you write a postscript—something you thought of afterwards—as hardly worth putting into the body of a letter. "The stars also!"

Oh the stars! Those vestal fires kept burning on infinite altars. Those lighthouses on the coast of eternity. The hands and weights and pendulum of the great clock of the universe. According to Herschel, the so-called fixed stars are not fixed at all, but each one a sun with a mighty system of worlds rolling round it, and this whole system with all the other systems rolling on around some great center. Millions and millions, billions and billions, trillions and trillions, quadrillions and quadrillions.

But what gladdens me, and at the same time overwhelms me, is that those worlds are inhabited. He says so, and oh, what a small idea you must have of God and his dominion if you think it only extends across this chip of a world which you and I now inhabit. Have you taken this idea of all the other worlds being inhabited as human as this? In Isaiah xlv. 18th chapter, 18th verse: "Thus saith the Lord that created the heavens, God himself that formed the earth, and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be established." Now, if he inhabited the earth so that it would not be created in vain, would he make worlds hundreds and thousands of times larger, and not have them inhabited? Speaking of the inhabitants of this world, he says: "The nations are as the drop of a bucket." If all the inhabitants of this world are as the drop of a bucket, where are the other billions of the inhabited? Again and again the Bible speaks of the host of heaven, and the word "host" means living creatures, not inert masses, and the expression "hosts of heaven must mean inhabitants of other worlds.

The Psalmist cries out: "Thy mercy is great above the heavens." If there were no inhabitants above the heavens, what use of any mercy? Again, the Bible proclaims: "Thy goodness reacheth unto the heavens." What could be the use of his goodness above the heavens if there were no inhabitants to enjoy it? Again, the Bible says: "He had set the glory above the heavens." And here my text comes in with its idea of a mansion of many stories: "It is he that buildeth his stories in the heaven." Is it possible that we who live on the ground floor of this many-storied building are the only human and that the larger rooms and the more gorgeously upholstered rooms and the more brilliantly chandeliered rooms above it are uninhabited? Besides this we are positively told in the Bible that the other worlds are inhabited—the world angelic and the world diabolic. Those two worlds added to our own make it positive that three worlds are inhabited. Why, then, stop with three worlds of living beings when there are not only millions but billions of worlds? Are they all standing like expensively furnished houses in time of financial panic marked "To let" and waiting to take them? All around us in this world we see economy of omnipotence. If Christ was going to feed the hungry seven thousand in the wilderness, he made use of the boy's five loaves and two fishes, expending no more of creative power than was needed. "Waste not" God hath written all over this world.

And do you suppose God would waste material in our solar system to the amount of one hundred and ninety-six million seven hundred trillion miles of solid contents and that only a small part as compared with other systems which go to make up this many-storied mansion of the text, where it says: It is he that buildeth his stories in the heaven." Did Professor Herschel and his sister Catherine, in finding worlds find only worlds uninhabited and worthless? Is Ceres, with 1,700 discovered in 1801, wasted? Is Vesta that Olbers discovered in 1807, wasted? Is Prosperine, which Professor Luther discovered in 1852, wasted? Is Urania, which Professor Hind discovered in 1854, wasted? Is Pandora, discovered by Professor Searle, wasted? Are the fifteen thousand stars recorded in one year in the observatory at Washington, wasted? Is all except the billionth part of the universe, wasted? My hearers, is it possible that God would run such a splendid passenger train of parlor cars through the heavens and keep it running if there were no passengers? Judging from the extent of the universe, do you think God would put all his family on such limits as this world marks? If a king have a palace of one hundred rooms will he put all his princes and princesses in one comparatively small room. As the highest happiness is in making others happy, is it not certain that God would occupy larger places than our small earth with beings capable of happiness? Besides this, why all the worlds furthest on and furthest up covered with light? What is the use of light if there are no eyes of inhabitants to enjoy and employ that light? I admit that scientific exploration has discovered that around many worlds there is an atmosphere in which lungs like ours could not breathe, and there are hearts or colds that physique like ours could not endure. But do you suppose that we have the only kind of lungs that God can make? Do our bodies exhaust divine ingenuity, and must he make all intelligent creatures with our respiration or pulsation or mastication or digestion or habitude or not make them at all?

However many worlds like ours cannot live in Mercury or Saturn or Jupiter or the sun, we have no right to conclude that those globes are lifeless. Without any telescope and without any observatory and without any astronomical calculation, I know that the other worlds are inhabited, because my Bible and my common sense tell me so. It has been estimated that in the worlds belonging to our solar system there is room for at least twenty-five trillion of population. And I believe it is all occupied, or will be occupied by intelligent beings, or has been occupied with brutes. He would certainly put into those worlds beings intelligent enough to appreciate the architecture, the coloring, the grandeur, the beauty, the harmony of their surroundings. Yea, the inhabitants of those worlds have capacity of locomotion like ours, for they would not have had such spacious opportunity for movement if they had not powers of motion. Yea, they have sight, else why the light, and hearing, else how get on with the necessary language, and how clear themselves from advancing perils. Yea, as God made our human race in his own image, he probably made the inhabitants of other worlds in his own image; in other words, it is as near demonstration as I care to have it that while the inhabitants of other worlds have adaptations of bodily structure to the particular climate in which they dwell, there is yet similarity of mental and moral characteristics among all the inhabitants of the universe of God, and made in his image, they are made wonderfully alike.

But notice that as other worlds rolled into the first book of the Bible, the Book of Genesis, they also appear in the last book of the Bible, the Book of Revelation. They will take part in the scenes of that occasion which shall be when the earth's winding up and a tremendous occasion for you and me personally. My father was on the turnpike road between Trenton and Bound Brook, N. J. He was coming through the night from the legislative halls, where he was serving his state, to his home, where there was sickness. I often heard him tell of the night. It was the 12th of the 11th and the morning of the 13th of November, 1833. The sky was cloudless and the air clear. Suddenly the whole heavens became a scene appointed to be repeated in the constellation Leo meteors began to shoot out in all directions. For the two hours between 4 and 6 in the morning it was estimated that a thousand meteors a minute flashed and expired. It was the brighter than noonday. Arrows of fire. Balls of fire. Trails of fire. Showers of fire. Some of the appearances were larger than the full moon. All around the horizon explosion followed explosion. Sounds as well as sights. The air filled with uproar. All the luminaries of the sky seemed to have received marching orders. The heavens rubbed and interlocked and garlanded with meteoric display. From horizon to horizon everything in combustion and conflagration. Many a brain that night gave way. Those who ran for doctors were quicker than nerves. Millions of people fell on their knees in prayer. Was the world ending, or was there some great event for which all heaven was illuminated? For eight momentous hours the phenomenon lasted. East, west, north, south it looked as though the heavens were in maniac disorder. Astronomers watching that night said that those meteors passed within 2,200 miles above the earth's surface, and moved with ten times the speed of a cannon.

The owner of a plantation in South Carolina says of that night scene: "I was suddenly awakened by the most distressing cries that ever fell on my ears. Shrieks of horror and cries of mercy I could hear from most of the Negroes on three plantations, amounting in all to about 600 souls. Without exception, my discipline for the cause I heard a faint voice near the door calling my name. I arose, and, taking my sword, stood at the door. At this moment I heard the same voice still beseeching me to rise, and saying, 'Oh, my God! the world is on fire!' I then opened the door, and it is difficult to say which excited me the most, the awfulness of the scene or the distressing cries of the Negroes. Upwards of one hundred lay prostrate on the ground, some speechless and some uttering the direst expressions with their hands raised imploring God to save the world and them. The scene was truly awful, for never did rain fall much thicker than the meteors did to the earth." But the excitement thus described by the Southern planter ran among the whites as well as the blacks, among the intelligent as well as the superstitious.

The whole country until the rising sun of the November morning eclipsed it, and the whole American nation sat down exhausted with the agitations of a night which seemed to have come and itself shall become a flaming star. The Bible closes with such a scene of falling lights, not only fidgety meteors but grave old stars. St. John saw it in prospect and wrote: "The stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs when she is shaken of a mighty wind." What a time that will be when worlds drop! Worlds that have graviated on God letting loose her grip on worlds! Constellations flying apart! Galaxies dissolved. The great orchard of the universe swept by the last hurricane letting down the stars from the trees! Then all worlds will go with the rest, and let it go, for it will have existed long enough to complete its tremendous experiment. But there will be enough worlds left to make a new heaven out of, if any more heaven needs to be built. That day finding us in Christ, our nature regenerated, our sins pardoned, and our hope triumphant, we will feel no more alarm than when in September, passing through an orchard, you hear the apples thump to the ground, or through a conservatory, and you hear an unripe fig drop on the floor. You will only go up stairs into another story, a better-lighted story, a better-furnished story, a better-ventilated story, a better-adjusted story, and into a story where already many of your kindred are waiting for you, and where prophets and apostles and martyrs will pay you celestial visitation, and where, with raptures beyond the most radiant anticipation, you shall bow before him that "buildeth his stories in the heaven."

THE OLD STORY.

He gave her a bunch of forget-me-nots
Before they parted that day,
That he might remain in her memory
green,
This fairest maiden that he had seen,
When fate took her far away.

He called her his darling, his dear, his pet,
And she vowed with a tear that she'd not forget,
He asked if she loved him. She answered, "Lots!"
But she went and forgot the forget-me-nots!
—Exchange.

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MENTION THIS PAPER.

The Camp Fire:

Contributions are solicited from old soldiers of the civil war for this department. We don't want discussions, but want brief, lively sketches and personal reminiscences of army life; all such are welcome.

Zeb Scantlin's Prayer.

Editor Camp Fire::—It was as good as a "play" to hear Zeb Scantlin "go on" when the final returns came in about the recent unpleasantness on November 8, 1892. Zeb is a "character." In 1861 he enlisted in a Kentucky Union regiment, and left his humble home on the mountain side near Rock Castle river. A giant in stature and strength, loyal to the core, a winning shot with the rifle, in courage and physical ability the equal of four average men, in work or fight, he was just the man to come out of four years' service with a spotless record as a soldier. Men who knew him then tell their neighbors and their children of his wonderful deeds of heroism with the pride of comradeship. But never a word comes from the lips of Zebediah Scantlin; and whenever comes to him for soldier stories hears only about another's bravery. And then they go away questioning if it is really so that the bravest are the humblest. Within walking distance of the Scantlin home are some fifteen or twenty other families, all too poor to afford the expense of a newspaper. But an old messmate of Zeb, in a far away city, sends him the Weekly Toledo Blade. The little mountain settlement is too poor even to hire a preacher, although "salvation is free." And so they meet at Scantlin's, and have done so for years, to hear what The Blade contains about religion and politics and general information. And so the dear old Blade is teacher, messenger and preacher to these mountaineers. Perhaps you would like to know the politics of the people. Well, it gives me supreme satisfaction to inform you they are all Republicans.

On the 13th of November 35 confident and excellent voters came to Zeb's to hear how the "'lection went." One of them had been down to Crab Orchard, where, by the kindness of a relative "well-to-do," he came into possession of 35 bunches of firecrackers, 35 Roman candles and 35 skyrockets. He paid nothing for them, and sold them to the rest of the Republican neighbors at the same price.

So on this Sunday evening each one came, bringing his quota of ammunition for the "blow out." Of course, the whole Republican business had gone in by the biggest majority on record. And The Blade would tell about it in great big "head lines." Of course, it would. And daughter Daisy, as good a Republican girl as ever rode a Kentuckey pacer, would read the glad tidings to them so proudly. And now it is time to begin. Daisy takes the paper from the table and gives an eager glance over the first page. It is enough. The color leaves the dimpled cheeks as with an angry gesture, she throws the unoffending Blade upon the floor and stamps upon it with her feet. Then she buried the sweet face and bright eyes from view. The father had never seen his child in such a mood before. As he questioned her of the cause, the tones of his voice was as lovingly tender as had been the mother's while living. The reminder was too much for Daisy's heart, and she went till the troubled soul grew calm. Then she resumed the reading. Strange, that this fair girl, this beautiful Daisy of the mountain side, should be so disturbed at a mere glance over the result of an election. Not versed in the lore of books, not conventional, neither saint nor scholar—yet she had imbibed from an unremitted reading of her precious newspaper, a political faith, a religion, without theology, and a fund of general information. The result was a peculiar personality. The gaunt stalwart form of Zeb Scantlin was now a bent and crippled frame. Age had done its work. Four years a soldier in heat and cold, in rain and snow, in mud and choking dust, and many nights upon the ground, had left their miasmatic impress after many years. But just now we look upon a transformation. Slowly the old veteran rises in his seat till his body is erect and majestic in bearing. And then the daughter is bid to pause in her reading.

"My child, what is all right? Have the Democrats elected the President and the House and the Senate, and all—and are the rebel colonels and generals coming back again?"

The old man looked from one to the other of the listeners, and into his eyes came a glittering, a glare, like as when the sun shone on polished steel. So he sat erect for full a minute before he spoke. Then, with a gesture, as if he would crush into oblivion the years gone by, he brought the cane, so long the trusted helper, to his shoulder arms. Next he gave the command, "Attention!" Every man stood up. "Men, the chaplain in my regiment said there was a God—powerful yet merciful, and ready to help in time of need. The time has come. I never prayed in my life. I am going to try now. I guess, from what The Blade talks sometimes and what the chaplain used to preach, that if I just ask God for only what is right for me to have, He will consent to give it. Now, all of you thinking that way kneel down." They all knelt. Then the old gray head of Zeb Scantlin was bent low in the humble attitude of supplication to his God. Comrades, let me give the wording of that prayer, in all its quaintness, in its childlike trust, in its terrible earnestness. And even then, it will lack the ringing tones of voice, for the time, in manifold degree made stronger: "Oh! Thou great and strong God, who made us and all the world, we just want you to listen to us, if you are not too busy. We have been doing the best we knew how, and may-be we didn't quite please you; but, if it ain't asking too much, and you see the needs of our country as we do, please consent to this one thing I am going to ask of you. Give back to every old man who loves the dear old flag with stars on it and stripes, all the strength of his youth. Oh, God! you know how we grow sick at heart to see the traitors coming into power. They have come back to have their own way, or shed the blood of men, women and children. Give us this strength back again, and then, with the young men, we can be a powerful army. Amen."

The united voices of that company uttered one amen, that shook the old log house on the mountain side. Such a prayer and such an amen were seldom, if ever, heard before. A sermon, a prayer, an outburst of patriotism, all in one.

"Now, men, listen to me. The rebel members of Congress will walk on, with a revolver in one hand and a knife in the other. They will make a bill to wipe out all pensions to Northern soldiers. If the Northern Democrats are slow to vote for it they will be hurried up by a show of revolvers and knives. The bill will pass. A new one will be passed to take the rebel soldiers in out of the cold, and give them a service pension. Do you hear me? The revolver and knife will be presented in the argument, and the bill will pass. The secretary of the army will move the arsenals down South; and the secretary of the Navy will man every war-ship with ex-rebels, and carry them South, navy yards and all. Do you hear me? They will fortify all the cities of the Southern states, and talk foreign war as a "blind." If the God we prayed to just now is not in favor of such 'goin's on' He will answer our prayer and help us when that dark day comes for the second time. Do you hear me? Now, you uns all go home, and don't be cast down in your hearts."

Comrades, I told you in the start that Zeb was "a character." It is possible for a quaint personality to evolve out of its quaintness, truth and good sense and reliable prophecy. But I must not forget to tell you that the 35 voters, on their homeward way, along the mountain paths from Scantlin's, failed to brighten up the deep defiles and steep ascents with "fireworks."

And at this late day the reason is revealed to us by no less a reliable authority than our own noted fisherman of Toledo. On business and pleasure bent, along the banks of Rock Castle river, on a recent occasion, the aforesaid truth-telling nimrod fished up with his little net, 35 bunches of firecrackers, 35 roman candles and 35 sky-rockets, a little bit odorous of powder to be a good fish story,

And yet, and yet, we cannot forget
That they might turn to fish if exposed to the wet.

—Harry Dingman, Toledo.

In Defense of Gen. Rosecrans.

Editor Camp Fire:—I am a constant reader of The Blade and Camp Fire, and am always glad to see the boys bringing in chips and splinters from all over this country of ours, especially when they sign their names. But I am surprised after having read the article in The Blade of December 8, signed "Observer," said article being headed "Gen. Rosecrans not Wanted." "Observer" refers to an editorial in The Blade which states that the old Confederate officers are organizing to urge the appointment of Gen. Rosecrans to the secretaryship of War under Cleveland.

"Observer" says he does not think the loyal soldiers want Gen. Rosecrans, and speaks further of his "fiasco" at Chickamauga, the last of his military blunders which caused the blotting out of existence several thousand lives. I had the honor of serving in Gen. Rosecrans' command, and I am safe in saying, and a majority of my old comrades will bear me out, that if Gen. Rosecrans could have had the support he required and that he asked for these abuses would not have occurred. Suppose Gen. Grant could not have obtained men when needed his reverses would have been more serious than those of Gen. Rosecrans. But when Gen. Grant asked for men he got them, and old dismantled the losses in the Wilderness, and other great battles. Gen. Grant saw that a sacrifice of lives was necessary to secure victory, and when he asked for more men to fill up the ranks he got them.

Not so with Gen. Rosecrans. He obeyed the orders of his superiors and went forward with an insufficient army but did all that could have been done under the circumstances, and I do not believe there was a general, not excepting Pap Thomas, who was more beloved by the rank and file of the army than was Gen. Rosecrans.

Had Gen. Rosecrans been furnished with men his name would have saved the lives of "several thousand men," but might have avoided the battle of Kenesaw mountain. As a veteran and a Republican would not be averse to seeing either Gen. Sickles or Gen. Slocum made secretary of War or commissioner of Pensions, and should President Cleveland see fit to honor Gen. Rosecrans with either place it would meet my approbation and suit the majority of veterans, especially in his old army.—J. F. W., Co. D, 31st O. V. V. I., New Lexington, O.

Born in Louisiana.

Editor Camp Fire:—The 24th Ind. V. V. I. left Evansville for New Orleans March 25, 1864. When we arrived in sight of Fort Pillow, Gen. Forrest had just completed the act of butchering the colored garrison at that place. I think the brave, broad-breasted lot of boys who took part in that fearful massacre will some day receive a noble pension for the above heroic deed. Our blood boils when we chronicle that act, and had it not have been that we were out of ammunition, we would have entered upon a retaliatory campaign, right there and then. April 3 we arrived at New Orleans, and on the 4th we took up quarters in the Louisiana Cotton Press, on St. John street. April 12 received one month's pay, and started up the Mississippi river, arriving at Baton Rouge the 13th.

On the 21st May three or four regiments of us started on a scout toward Clinton, La.; halted at midnight; moved up the next morning, and at 8 o'clock a. m. we found the enemy; had a sharp skirmish and drove the enemy to Olive Branch church, where we made a grand charge, and routed them again. We followed them a few miles, and then turned toward Baton Rouge.

Arrived at camp the 4th all pretty tired, and our feet sore from such severe marching. May 21 received two months' pay and one installment of bounty. June 16 we were received by Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Sickles. Weather warm; picket duty very heavy, and musquitoes extremely numerous; plenty of watermelons to eat and roasting ears in abundance.

It was at this place that the "Deadwoods," the three year recruits, were mustered out of service and sent home. —Lew Jessup.

Brave Mrs. Cutter.

Editor Camp Fire:—In The Blade of December 8 appears an account of the death of the "Heroine of Fort Donelson," Mrs. Eliza E. Cutter, the only woman who carried the United States flag in battle. The facts of the matter are these: Mrs. Cutter was the wife of Col. Lyman B. Cutter, who raised a company for the 83d Illinois. It was the first company organized in the state, under the President's call for 300,000 men, in 1862, and in honor of this distinction, the company was presented with a fine flag by the ladies of Monmouth, Ills. The company became the color company of the regiment. The 83d Illinois was prominently engaged in the second battle of Fort Donelson.

Col. Cutter's wife and a few other ladies from the North were there at the time. The regular flags of the regiment were carried by the color company, but Mrs. Cutter took the flag which had been presented to the company, went upon the field and waved the banner to encourage the boys. She was repeatedly fired at, and finally withdrew and stationed herself upon the upper deck of a steamboat which was lying at the landing. There she stayed, pluckily refusing to go below.

She compelled a rebel lady who was on the boat to assist her in holding and waving the flag, telling her that she was under its protection and must aid in keeping it floating. The captain tried to compel Mrs. Cutter to go below, as the waving of the flag was drawing the fire of the enemy, but she told him that the flag would only go down with the wreck of the steamboat.

When the company was mustered out of the service its members held a meeting and presented the flag to Mrs. Cutter, by whom it has been carefully treasured as a sacred memento of the occasion.—Co. G, 129th Ills.

A Good Record.

Editor Camp Fire:—I entered the army at the age of 15 years and served within eighteen days of four years, and am without hospital record. If any one can show a better record I would like to hear from them. I am proud of my record as a soldier, and of the record of the Republican party.—R. B. M., Green Valley, Ills.

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The Sunday School.

LESSON I., JANUARY 1, 1893.

Returning from Captivity.

Golden Text—The Lord thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee.—Deut. xxx, 3.

LESSON TEXT.

(Ezra I, 1-11.)

1. Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

2. Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

3. Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem.

4. And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, besides the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem.

5. Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all of them whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem.

6. And all they that were about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, besides all that was willingly offered.

7. Also Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of the Lord, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem, and had put them in the house of his gods;

8. Even those did Cyrus king of Persia bring forth by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah.

9. And this is the number of them: thirty chargers of gold, a thousand chargers of silver, nine and twenty knives,

10. Thirty basins of gold, silver basins of a second sort four hundred and ten, and other vessels a thousand.

11. All the vessels of gold and of silver were five thousand and four hundred. All these did Sheshbazzar bring up with them of the captivity that were brought up from Babylon unto Jerusalem.

Illustrative Applications.

The Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus (v. 1.) No man's spirit is worth much until it is aroused. Even when it is aroused, it may be worse than useless, because of its being moved from evil impulses or in the wrong direction. But when God stirs up the spirit of a man, it is sure of its best possibilities and of its highest attainment. There are men of noble qualities and of admirable characteristics who do little or nothing in the world, because their spirits are not stirred up to heroic action. The brightest youth is in danger of letting his finest powers lie dormant or run to waste. Every parent's prayer for his or her child should be: "Lord, stir up the spirit of my boy, so that he may really be worth something in the world." And every youth's prayer for himself should be that the Lord will stir up his spirit so that he shall be at his best. Without this stirring from the Lord, the choicest spirit may be a failure or a wreck.

And the kingdoms of the earth hath the Lord, the God of Heaven, given me." So he hath charged me to build him an house (v. 2). That sounds like a large claim; yet there is a modest side to it, and in a sense it can be made for himself by every believing child of God. Paraphrased for the individual disciple of Jesus, it declares: "All that I am or have is from God. He has given me limitless opportunities and a special mission." In the plan of God, every Christian is one with Christ and a worker with God. His life-sweep enters into the sweep of the universe. His destiny is linked with God's very existence. And he is set to build a house for the Lord God in one's own character, in one's every-day sphere of labor, in one's co-work with all church activity and all Christian endeavor in one's sphere of influence—and beyond. In fact, it would be well for every Christian disciple to recognize his mission in the plan of God as clearly as did Cyrus, and to be as confident and trustful in the discharge of his duty accordingly.

An house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. It was not Cyrus's home-church that he was now called to take hold of, for its house-building; nor was it a church which either himself or any of his family were to worship in. It was the church of another denomination, away out West from his Eastern home. But he didn't excuse himself on that score. It is true that the church would benefit people in whom he had an interest, and that it was in a field for which he was responsible. But there are men in our day who would feel that they had no call to take hold of an enterprise of this sort, so far away from their own comfortable homes, and for a people with whom they felt little in common—albeit their fellow-mortals and their fellow-citizens; and this even when they owned stock in a railroad, or had loaned money on a mortgage, in that very region. Cyrus set a good example in this thing to some who would count themselves a good deal sounder in the faith than he was.

Whosoever there is among you of all his people, let him go up (v. 3). It is one thing to be of the Lord's people, and another thing to be one of the Lord's people. It is one thing to be with the Lord's people when they are away from their proper standing ground, and another thing to break away from the Lord's people, and, if necessary, to go all by one's self to the post of duty when the testing time of fidelity comes. To be a Christian in general is a great deal easier than to be a Christian in particular. Yet the call will come, in one way or another, for those who are not of the multitude to stand for themselves and for their principles, whether they are ready to take an individual stand for the right—at any cost to themselves. That call meant something in the day of Cyrus. It means something in our day; quite as much as then.

Whosoever is left, in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him beside the freewill offering for the house of God (v. 4). Private and public charities both have their claims. It is not enough for a man to say that he is giving for church-building and missionary enterprises, and therefore he must neglect his family and his neighbors. Nor will it do for him to say that, because he is bearing a share in the support of those about him, he can leave no part in church-building and missionary enterprises. He should do the one is a reason why he should also do the other; and his being faithful in one direction is, indeed, more likely to prompt him to faithfulness in the other.

They that were round about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, beside all that was willingly offered (v. 6). Good, as well as evil, is contagious. If a man shows himself a hero at home, he inspires others to heroism. If he goes off on a mission in unselfish devotion to the cause of God and to the good of his fellows, his course wins admiration and sympathy, and others, who would not think of going themselves, are glad to help him by willing gifts in the line of his needs. Foreign missionary work promotes home beneficences. He who rises above the average in well doing thereby raises the average of well doing. In addition to all that foreign missionaries do in the land to which they go as missionaries, they open the hearts and the hands of the church-members whom they leave behind them. They who would strengthen the hands of devoted workers for God have their own hearts strengthened by their very purpose of helping God's helpers.—H. Clay Trumbull, in Sunday School Times.

A Christmas Card.

I have no purse of gold, my dear,
With which to buy you dainty things;
The purse is empty, and the gold
Has flown away as if on wings;
So, sweetest wife in all the world,
Tho' you possess the greater part,
I'll give to you on Christmas day
Another fraction of my heart.
—Harper's Magazine.

Another Old Saying Smashed.

"That horse feels his oats, I can tell you."

"Why shouldn't he? Every oat is pointed at both ends."

LIVE MASTODONS.

Is It Possible They Exist in the Interior of Alaska?

The Stickeen Indians positively assert that within the last five years they have frequently seen animals, which, from the descriptions given, must be mastodons. Last spring, while out hunting, one of these Indians came across a series of large tracks, each the size of the bottom of a salt barrel, sunk deep in the moss. He followed the curious trail for some miles, finally coming out in full view of his game. As a class these Indians are the bravest of hunters, but the proportions of this new species of game filled the hunter with terror, and he took to swift and immediate flight. He describes the creature as being as large as a post trader's store, with great shining, yellowish white tusks and a mouth large enough to swallow a man at a single gulp. He further says that the animal was undoubtedly of the same species as those whose bones and tusks lie all over that section of the country.

The fact that other hunters have told of seeing these monsters browsing on the herbs up along the river gives a certain probability to the story. Over on Forty Mile Creek bones of mastodons are quite plentiful. One ivory tusk nine feet long projects from one of the sand dunes on that creek, and single teeth have been found that were so large that they would be a good load for one man to carry. I believe that the mule-footed hog still exists; also that live mastodons play tag with the aurora every night over on Forty Mile Creek in Alaska.—Juneau Free Press.

THE CARE OF THE EYES.

Avoid all sudden changes between light and darkness.

Never read by twilight, or moonlight, or of a very cloudy day.

Never read or sew directly in front of the light, or window or door.

It is best to have the light fall from above, obliquely over the left shoulder.

Never sleep so that on first awakening the eyes shall open on the light of a window.

Never begin to read or write or sew for several minutes after coming from darkness to a light room.

Do not use the eyesight by light so scant that it requires an effort to discriminate.—National Educator.

Aluminum Boats.

The "racing shell" of the future will be made of aluminum. The University eights of Harvard, Cornell and Stanford have contracts with J. Galanaugh, the Philadelphia boat-builder, for aluminum shells for use next spring. The Cornell boat will be 62 feet in length over all, 23 inches beam amidship, 6 1-2 inches deep forward and 5 1-2 inches deep aft. The shell will be composed entirely of aluminum, with the exception of the wash box, which will be of wood, and the outriggers, which are to be of steel tubing, cold drawn. This wonderfully light craft, weighing only 175 pounds, is designed to carry a crew of eight, averaging 175 pounds, and a coxswain, say, altogether, 1,500 pounds.

There, Yet Not There.

Harlow—At home again, Mr. Brandon? Mr. B.—Well, I'm in my house, but Madame has had it decorated this summer, and I don't feel very much at home yet.—Harper's Bazar.

Easily Satisfied.

Suitor—I came here to ask for your daughter's hand.

Her Father—She is my only daughter.

Suitor—Well, she's all I want.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Not That Kind of a Road.

He—"Do you think I could get a pass on your father's road?"

She—"Well, they don't pass anything but dividends on his road. I've heard him say so."—Life.

The Reward of Industry.

He practised at figures and writing, they say,
When a lad, in the old village schoolroom;
And he's now in receipt of five dollars per day
For chalking up odds in a pool room.
Puck.

Best Cure For

All disorders of the Throat and Lungs is Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. It has no equal as a cough-cure.

Bronchitis

"When I was a boy, I had a bronchial trouble of such a persistent and stubborn character, that the doctor pronounced it incurable with ordinary remedies, but recommended me to try Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. I did so, and one b

TOLEDO BLADE.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1892.

Largest and Best Weekly Published, and Largest Circulation!

TOLEDO BLADE CO.....Publishers.
ROBINSON LOCKE.....Editor.

THE BLADE is a weekly newspaper for intelligent American citizens. It aims to cover, each week, all news topics of real interest to all wide-awake and thinking men. Its editorial page is the strongest and most thoughtful of any in the United States. Its special departments are carefully edited, and the whole paper is intended for the homes of the free American people.

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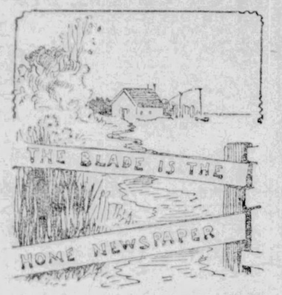


CIRCULATION LAST WEEK, **108,000.**

DECEMBER EXPIRATIONS.

Those of our readers whose time expires in December will be interested in reading the three valuable premium offers made in this issue.

We refer, first, to the two elegant "Columbus" pictures, which we offer elsewhere to December subscribers. Bear in mind we give TWO pictures and The Weekly Blade one year for $1.00.

Second, we refer to the premium book, "Nasby in Exile," given away to those who renew in December. We have printed a third edition of this book, which is now ready for our subscribers who prefer it. Those wanting a copy should not delay.

Third, we refer to our offer of World's Fair souvenir half-dollars, on the 5th page of this issue.

Our December subscribers may have the two pictures, a copy of "Nasby in Exile" and The Weekly Blade for one year, for $1.25. Address "The Blade, Toledo, Ohio."

CLUB RATES FOR THE BLADE.

Our agents' terms are now ready for this year, and we have made them exceedingly low. We want not only every one who usually acts as agent for newspapers to send to us for these terms, but we desire that any of our subscribers who will be interested to know how they can get a copy of the Weekly Blade free, to write for our agents' terms. We have made the price for small clubs lower than ever before offered by any dollar weekly newspaper. Write for confidential terms to agents. Address "The Blade, Toledo, Ohio."

Don't you want a good watch? One that you can rely upon as being exactly what it is represented to be? And at price from one-third to one-half less than you would have to pay a retail dealer in your own town? If you do, read our watch offers in the "Publisher's Desk" column, on fifth page of this issue of The Blade.

"NASBY IN EXILE."

To give room for our Encyclopedia announcement, we omit the advertisement of "Nasby in Exile" from the fifth page this week. The offer continues, however, and it is easy for readers to refer to back numbers of The Blade for particulars.

ORDNANCE PROGRESS.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy is remarkable for the progress it chronicles in the way of naval ordnance work. The story of brilliant successes in this line, set down by Secretary Tracy, is the outcome of exceptional talent in the Navy department, combined with inventive fertility and busy labor.

The achievement which stands at the head of the list is the perfecting of the American process of hardening armor surface. Our nickel-steel armor plate has stood the most merciless tests, and its superiority is admitted by all other great naval powers. The process of super-carbonizing the surface of the plates has been perfected during the year, and the tests made recently show a success never before attained. This—called from its inventor, the "Harvey process"—was invented to harden the surface of steel tools. It occurred to Commander Folger, who is in charge of the Washington gun foundry, that the process might be applied to armor plate. Experiments were made, and success has crowned Commander Folger's efforts.

The second success has been that of American armor-piercing projectiles. Three years ago these were all imported. Now we make projectiles equal to the best made elsewhere. The third success is American smokeless powder, surpassing in strength and stability the best European powders. Fourth comes the development of a trustworthy high explosive, for charging shells to be fired from powder guns; this is known as "emmensite."

Fifth may be named the advance made in gun mounts for heavy guns, by substituting hydraulic power for hand power. Gun-making shows the sixth success of the year—the 13-inch caliber guns, the first of which is nearly ready; the new mode of construction of 8-inch guns, and the great improvements made in rapid-fire guns.

Last is the new vessel proposed by Commander Folger, under whom the foregoing results have been developed. The test of the Ericsson submarine gun, a few months ago, having shown that a fairly accurate range of at least 600 feet can be obtained, he has submitted the design of a new ram, with curved nickel-steel decks, carrying a pair of submarine guns, for the discharge of projectiles containing 500 pounds of high explosives, while it will also have short, above-water mortars for projectiles containing 200 pounds. Such a vessel, novel and effective, must attract widespread attention in other countries.

The annexation fever is raging in Canada. That's all right; but does any Canadian dream that Great Britain will let the Dominion be annexed to the United States without a war?

MR. EMBREE REPLIES.

We have received the following frank and exceedingly interesting letter from Rev. A. S. Embree, pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church, Topeka, Kan., dated Dec. 12:

Editor Blade:—My attention is called to an editorial in your paper, entitled "Mr. Embree's Fallacy." Doubtless your remarks are based upon a certain press dispatch, dated Topeka, November 28, in which I am represented as having preached a sermon declaring prohibition a failure, and calling for something else. It is due a worthy cause that the exact truth be known. I preached no such sermon. I have been in Kansas ever since the first of the agitation which finally led to the amendment of the constitution, and have witnessed the practical workings of all the laws touching the subject. In that time I have lived as the pastor of a church in ten different towns and cities, with populations ranging from 3,000 to 40,000 people. In three of these I have seen a thorough and satisfactory enforcement of the law. In one, but little more than the city of Topeka, and the great majority of the people having a decided preference for the saloon. In the remaining one there has been some drinking; and yet even in these two last mentioned, the violations of the prohibition statutes were not more numerous nor flagrant than the violation of laws which proscribe gambling hells and other forms of evil.

In addition to this I have traveled somewhat extensively over the state, am in constant contact with ministers and others from all points of the compass, and my profound conviction is that prohibition is not only feasible, but that it is the only weapon with which to make successful war against the whisky traffic. The number of paupers is diminishing, there is not so much crime, more children are in the schools, and those of parents who formerly drank are now better housed, clothed and fed, learn faster and give less trouble to their teachers; while the towns and cities where the law is enforced enjoy a degree of prosperity not shared by those who violate it.

We have our ups and downs, of course, are not always harmonious nor happy in the selection of officers, the situation is not always and every where as we would like it; but we are encouraged, and have no idea of taking a backward step.

As to the dispatch in question. It was not sent from Topeka at all, but from Kansas City, Mo. Reputable gentlemen who are paid correspondents of Eastern papers deny sending such things as are being continually printed with Kansas names and dates, touching prohibition. There seems to be a bureau outside the state whose business it is to furnish lying statements to the Associated Press. They get columns on first pages and flaming head-lines; we, even for the purpose of correction, must write with the utmost brevity, and then are often suppressed. For example, the Kansas City Journal gave the second column on first page to the misrepresentation of my sermon, and, all told, eleven lines of fine type inside to the truth.

Such treatment is understood here, but not elsewhere. Will you please give your 100,000 readers an opportunity to know that Kansans are still determined that prohibition shall prohibit? Very truly yours, A. S. EMBREE.

We are glad to give Mr. Embree the fullest publicity for his statement. It is atrocious that a minister's—or any one else's—public utterances should be garbled, or their position be misrepresented. The dispatch was sent out from the Chicago office of the Associated Press; and the manager of that office obtained it—we are not absolutely certain, but think we are right—from a Topeka special to the Chicago Tribune. In all the large cities, the Associated Press has access to the specials received by the papers belonging to it. We shall, however, call the attention of the General Manager of the Associated Press to the matter, for his information regarding Kansas news concerning prohibition.

Our comments on Mr. Embree's position, of course, lose all point, now that the dispatch on which they were based is shown to be a fraud. We are glad to have the fact authoritatively stated that prohibition is a benefit to Kansas. We have always felt that it must be, from the very nature of things. Several years ago, we obtained statements from Gov. Humphreys and others as to the effect of prohibition in that state, which tallied exactly with those of Mr. Embree; but we find the same misrepresentations are afloat now that were in circulation at that time.

It is certainly reasonable to assume with the great waste of personal earnings over saloon counters stopped, those who formerly spent them, this large aggregate sum will be spent in buying better clothing and better food for themselves, their wives and children, that consequently they should live in better circumstances; that the money formerly going into the pockets of liquor dealers should now be paid to tradesmen in legitimate lines of trade. That money must be disposed of somehow. It is either now spent for proper and laudable purposes, or is deposited in bank for a rainy day. There is just as much money spent in trade in any Kansas town as there was in the days of the open saloon; and consequently the plea that "prohibition injures business" must be a falsehood.

The enormous waste of the means of living which the liquor traffic causes is one of the strongest reasons why the body politic—the state—should interfere. To prevent it, the saloon must be abolished. The one thing needed is to have a majority of the people educated up to the point that they will not only abstractly favor prohibition, but favor its fearless and strict enforcement. The amount of drinking, the number of drunkards, do not depend upon the number of saloons. So long as one or these in any town has its doors open, those addicted to this vice can gratify it just as readily as if there were fifty. The economic side of the prohibition question is alone enough to decide any thinking man, without reference to the moral argument also involved, to cast his influence in favor of the effort to stop the traffic, abolish the saloon, and thus

Pulverize the Rum Power.

Toledo congratulates Chicago on Mr. Phil D. Armour's munificent gift of a manual training school and a million and a half of dollars with which to endow it. Our own training school is the pride of every citizen, and while we have not so splendid an endowment, we are not envious of Chicago's gift. In the language of Dr. Gunsaulus, Mr. Armour's representative in this behalf, the new school is intended to combine "all that money, brains and labor can do toward making it the greatest manual training school in the country. It will be a school good enough for the richest, but it will reach out for the poorest." We commend the Chicago style of doing this to those Toledo citizens who are minded to emulate Mr. Armour's example.

Poor old Missouri is after several slices of pie. She already announces three aspirants for Cabinet office, and a large delegation from that state has already been worrying Cleveland about it. Governor Francis wishes to be secretary of War, or of the Interior; Congressman Hatch, secretary of Agriculture, and Editor Chas. H. Jones, secretary of the Intrior. Poor Jones! He is an inveterate office-seeker, but is always turned down. His aspirations for a Cabinet office don't agree, somehow, with his paper's denunciations of a "muzzled press" when President Harrison nominated a few editors for positions.

The filing of Jay Gould's will for probate at last makes the exact amount of his wealth public. The value of the estate is placed at $72,000,000, of which $2,000,000 is in real estate and the remaining $70,000,000 in personal property. Gould was popularly supposed to be worth at least $150,000,000. This shows the exaggerated estimate put upon the wealth of such men.

OUR JAPAN LETTERS.

Mr. Locke Diligently Getting His Material Ready—Features Never Before Given in Any American Newspaper.

A brief letter from Mr. Robinson Locke, who, with a family party, is now making a tour of Japan, with the purpose of writing a series of letters in The Blade, which will be one of the several special features for the new year, has just been received. It was written at Kyoto, the capital of the empire. He is rapidly accumulating his material, and writes:

"The best wood engraver in Japan is making some cuts for The Blade, and the finest artist in the empire is making dozens of India ink drawings for the same purpose. They are extremely fine in execution. Whatever the letters may lack in literary merit they will make up in pictorial excellence. Nothing of the kind has ever been done before. The engravings will show—accurately and spiritedly—characteristic sketches of town and country life, types of men and women, street scenes, temples (and they are magnificent in their Oriental splendor), Japanese homes, farm life, their industries—in short. I am sparing neither time, pains nor money to get the finest lot of illustrations ever taken out of Japan. We are having all sorts of queer and interesting experiences, all of which I set down, for I know they will please The Blade's readers. I am trying to tell the things which they most want to know, and to avoid guide-book methods entirely."

Mr. Locke speaks with too great modesty of his literary ability. He possesses to a rare degree the faculty of telling in vivid word-pictures, which convey a perfect understanding of the subject to his readers. We can safely promise that his series of letters will be one of the literary events of the coming year, and that the readers of The Blade (in which these letters will appear exclusively) will be pleased, interested and instructed by their perusal.

THOSE FUNNY ENGLISH.

Our English cousins are a very queer sort of people. They fail entirely to understand the progress of popular opinion in this country. It seems to be a fact that there are people over there who still believe that Confederate bonds will eventually be paid. The British sympathizers with the slaveholders' rebellion evinced their belief that the Confederacy would win by buying millions of dollars' worth of its bonds. The triumph of the Union rendered them that much waste paper, but they have been holding on to them in the hope that finally the United States would pay them. The idea that this or any other nation would assume the debt of rebels against its authority is grotesque; but the following extract, from the London Money Market Review, shows that the hope of ultimate payment still animates its editor, who actually advises Confederate bondholders to hold on to their worthless bits of paper. Hear him:

The impending return to power in the United States of the Democratic party opens an agreeable prospect to a large number of English as well as continental investors who are interested in various forms of paper issued by the Southern states. The Democrats have always been considered identified in an especial degree with the interests of the South, while the converse has held good with regard to the Republicans. The shifting of political power which has just taken place, therefore, is necessarily of good augury for Southern interests.

As one essential matter we may advert to the improved prospect which is open to the holders of confederate bonds. The position of these claims needs only to be calmly stated for a great deal of prejudice to be removed. For the purposes of the armed conflict which the South waged against the North, the Southern states issued a considerable amount of bonds which came bona fide into the possession of British and continental holders.

There was, in particular, an issue of Confederate cotton bonds which—it seems almost a dream to record the fact—was placed upon the London market in 1863 at 7s per cent stock at the price of ninety, and which for a time commanded a premium ranging from three to five per cent. With the downfall of the Southern Confederacy the holders of all these forms of paper found them, as was natural, hugely discredited. They had lent their money to the South, and, of course, did not expect the victorious North to make it good. But the North went beyond a victor's rights.

The Congress of the reunited Union passed a law prohibiting the Southern states from recognizing their obligations. The majority of eminent United States jurists hold that the enactment was unconstitutional, and involved a violation of the rights of the Southern states. It was certainly opposed to international law. A victorious state has no right to force upon its beaten adversary a course which shall interfere with the recovery of the latter for all time.

The essential point of the contention of the holders of Confederate bonds is that the United States Congress, in passing the unjustifiable law in question, put itself in the wrong, and made itself liable in their regard. But for the prohibition the Southern states would before now have made an arrangement with their creditors. Having prevented them doing so, the Union becomes itself liable, according to the dictates of that irrefragable law of justice which no community can afford to despise, and which, of all the peoples of the earth, the great American nation is the least likely to contemn.

ONLY TWO WEEKS MORE!

Our offer of the "Columbus" pictures will remain good for two weeks longer. These pictures are two in number, and are true copies of the following celebrated paintings:

First, "The Landing of Columbus," the original of which hangs in the rotunda of the Capitol at Washington.

Second, "Columbus at the Court of Ferdinand and Isabella," the original of which is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York city.

The copies which we offer are printed on plate paper, size 17 by 24 inches. In detail of execution, they are wonderfully correct, and in color are exact reproductions of the originals. They would retail in any art store at one dollar each. Buying them in quantities, as we do, at 25 cents each, either one of them would be an elegant premium in connection with the Weekly Blade at one dollar.

But we propose, during the month of December, to present a copy of both of these pictures to every subscriber whose time expires in December, who sends us $1 for his renewal.

In addition to this, we have just had printed and bound a THIRD EDITION of the premium book, "Nasby in Exile," having already exhausted 10,000 copies in renewals for the past four months. Those of of December subscribers who do not care for the coupon offer, or the above picture offer, may have a copy of "Nasby in Exile" in connection with their renewal of $1 during December.

Or, during the month of December only, those who will send us $1.25 for their renewal of the subscription to The Blade, may have BOTH the above pictures, AND ALSO a copy of "Nasby in Exile," as well as the Weekly Blade for one year.

Remember, the picture offer holds good for only two weeks longer!

The latest rumor as to Cleveland's idea is that he is opposed to an extra session of Congress next spring, but in favor of a session in the fall to consider a general tariff bill which shall have been prepared in the meantime, under his personal direction, by the secretary of the Treasury, aided by leading "tariff reformers." Meanwhile, is the "robbery" of the people by the tariff to go on unchecked for so many moons?

The souvenir coins are going like hot cakes in Chicago and New York.

With whisky at $1.25 a gallon Democratic inspiration comes high.

STATE BANK CURRENCY.

A correspondent of The Blade, whose initials are S. E., asks the following concerning Democratic wildcat banking schemes:

Can an inferior state bank currency circulate at par, so long as the national government maintains a gold standard currency?

It seems to me that the people, and especially the creditor class, will not only prefer, but will demand, the best currency in circulation, for the same reason that other things being equal, a superior article will always be preferred to an inferior one.

Of course the conditions are reversed when a government makes an inferior or depreciated currency a legal tender, because in this case the people are deprived of making a choice. Under existing circumstances, a state government cannot deprive them of this choice.

Quite true. No state, under the federal constitution, has power to make anything but gold and silver legal tender. The national government has that power. Our correspondent's theory is perfectly correct. In practice, however, state bank issues would work to the detriment of the very men who are least able to endure the evils of a poor currency—the working class.

Suppose that he were working as a day laborer for an employe. When payday comes around, he is offered his pay in wildcat currency. He refuses, as he has a perfect right to do, to receive it, because it is not legal tender. His employer grumblingly pays him in legal tender, and then promptly discharges him. That would be the practical working of state bank currency. It would be shoved off on those who make their living by daily labor.

The demand for the repeal of the 10 per cent tax on state bank circulation came from the South. It was put in the Chicago platform by the efforts of the Georgia delegates. There is no labor organization among the negroes who do the agricultural work in the South. There would be no redress for the man there who should refuse to take wildcat money. Again, there is plenty of money in the country for all our needs. What sense or reason is there in adding a currency less valuable than national currency?

THE POPULAR VOTE.

We are using every effort to get the OFFICIAL figures of the vote of each state. Just as soon as we get them from all the 44 states, we will be able to award our premiums, but of course can not before. Have patience, friends; we are as anxious to get the award made as you can possibly be.

CHOLERA OR THE FAIR?

The effort to protect the people of the United States from a visitation of cholera next year, through a law suspending immigration for a twelvemonth, has started the great Atlantic steamship companies into action. At a meeting of the Continental Steamship association at London on the 12th, it was agreed to carry only saloon and second-class passengers after January 1 next, to reduce materially the number of sailings during 1893, and to raise the saloon and second-cabin rates, in order to make up the loss incurred through abandoning the steerage traffic. Besides this, all special excursion rates for the Chicago Columbian Exposition have been withdrawn by the association, and there is no doubt that this action will result in a large falling off in the number of foreign visitors to the World's Fair.

This action of the foreign steamship companies, we are glad to say, does not seem to influence Congress against the Chandler bill, already introduced, for the stoppage of immigration. Of the two evils, a visitation of cholera or a lessening of attendance at the World's Fair, the feeling is that the less is to be chosen. We will risk the success of the Fair, even though foreign excursions fall off in number, rather than risk the health of the nation. Were these steamship lines owned by Americans, we might expect different action on their part. But foreign governments subsidize mail lines across the Atlantic and we do not, because the people are not fully alive to the fact that, to compete with other nations, and build up these lines of our own, we must be prepared to give the same advantages that they offer.

TO DEFEAT.

The army bill which has been mentioned at length in The Blade, it seems, will be abandoned by Caprivi, the chancellor of Germany. This move means a defeat of the Imperial government and a glorious victory for the people who have been groaning under the oppression of a military despotism of the milder type.

The army bill provided for a vast increase in the army each year, and meant more young men, the flower of Germany, for military service. It meant fewer producers and more consumers, whom the people must support.

For this reason Caprivi has been unable to move the Centre party in the Reichstag and his scheme, opposed even by Bismarck, will now be defeated. Another step will have been taken toward liberty and free government in Germany when Caprivi is compelled to retreat.

That Chicago drummer who eloped with a married woman and her mother at Canton, this state, the other day, certainly has undertaken a job that few would care to tackle. His taking along a brevet mother-in-law gives one a luminous idea of his foolhardiness.

Here are the beauties of "tariff for revenue only" beginning to display themselves in the Philadelphia Record, a strong Cleveland paper. It advocates a duty of 1 1-2 cents on sugar, 2 cents on coffee and 5 cents on tea. Where's the "free breakfast table?"

It makes the mugwumps howl to hear the public assurance that enough pledges have been secured by Mr. Murphy from Democratic members-elect of the New York legislature to insure his nomination as Senator by acclamation in the legislative caucus.

Cholera still persists in Hamburg. There were four new cases last week. This is of the nature of a broad hint to our authorities to keep the plague out, even if it involves a suspension of immigration for a year.

The United States labor market is full at the present time. If a period of stagnation should come, distress would ensue. A strenuous effort will be made to have Congress put a stop to wholesale immigration, on this account.

"Commercial emancipation" is the newest term for free trade, and was coined by Roger Q. Mills. It is the thing, not the name, that is objectionable.

Justice Lamar is talking about resigning; but he will considerately wait until Cleveland is inaugurated.

Isn't it about time for another crisis in South American politics?

Where is Mr. Holman's objector? Has he given it to Gov. Gray?

THE MONETARY CONFERENCE.

The International Monetary conference at Brussels has adjourned until May next. Although it has arrived at no decision, yet its meetings have done much good to the cause of bimetallism. It has shown the nations of Europe that the silver question is one which must be settled by international agreement; that no one nation, nor two, nor three, can settle it alone. Then the United States delegates have made it clear to Europe that we do not propose to go to the silver standard, and abandon gold—which those nations had hoped we would do; they have been given to understand that we wish bimetallism, but that we will not adopt free coinage of silver at the present ratio, as that would mean going to the silver standard, and adopting a dollar of 65 cents purchasing power instead of one of 100 cents, as now.

The English delegates, with one exception, acted as obstructionists; yet the conference has given a strong impulse to the cause of bimetallism in Great Britain. The farmers' convention recorded itself in its favor. The delegates from India angrily protested against the obstructive tactics of their English confreres. There are twenty countries represented in the conference, and the majority of them are sincerely in favor of reaching some international plan for the large use of silver as money. Though no agreement was reached by the conference, it has set the governments participating to thinking about the matter; it has started a discussion that may end in satisfactory action.

If there were any stability to the value of silver, the shortest cut for the United States would be to change our present coinage ratio to one expressing the market ratio, and give free coinage to silver. But as silver's value is unstable, this would not do. Nothing but an international agreement upon a new ratio, and the admission of silver to free coinage under it, can give to silver any degree of stability. Probably the only practical course left open to us is to repeal the silver-purchase clause of the act of 1890, and have the government use the tons of silver stacked up in the Treasury vaults in redeeming its certificates in terms of gold. That is, pay out a dollar's worth of silver, at the market price on that day, for every dollar in paper presented for such payment. Speaking of this plan, the Chicago Tribune says:

This is the plan proposed by the late Secretary Windom, and each day's experience only adds to the strength of the reasons why his advice should be followed. Adopting this course we should see silver doing all the commercial business its commercial value will allow, and it is difficult to see what it should be permitted or wanted to do more. Let it be accepted in payment of debts at its real purchasing power as compared with gold values, and there would be no further trouble about finding an enlarged use for silver. This would be the best and easiest solution of the problem.

The old standard ratio of 16 to 1 must be abandoned. It is commercially non-existent and could not be fixed on by legislation authorizing free coinage without driving out of circulation every grain of gold and bullion as a basis of the monometallic basis in which the monometal would be silver instead of gold. Such a monometalism would do no good to anybody, and even to the silver men, but would terribly damage the people at large by upsetting values and paralyzing the industries of the country while the new basis was being adapted to the new order of things, to say nothing of the great injustice that such a change would entail.

THAT ENCYCLOPEDIA.

Don't neglect to read the magnificent offer for the Encyclopedia Britannica, on the 5th page of this paper. No offer has yet been made, in the way of an encyclopedia, which is so cheap and at the same time so good. Two cents a day for a very short period will enable any one to obtain a copy of this work, which is a complete reference library in itself. This is the Revised Encyclopedia Britannica, complete in twenty octavo volumes of over 7,000 pages; 14,000 columns and 8,000,000 words, printed on a fine quality of paper, from new type, and is strongly bound in heavy manilla paper covers, which with proper care will last a life time.

The most wonderful fact in connection with our offer is that we send the entire 20 volumes with all charges prepaid, on receipt of only one dollar, and allow you to pay the other $9 at the rate of 10 cents a day for 90 days, payable monthly, thus placing it within the easy reach of every one. Don't fail to read the offer, and to avail yourselves of it.

Representative Oates, chairman of the House committee on the investigation of the Homestead strike, doubts whether there will be any more action on this subject on the part of himself or colleagues. The committee was originally appointed with the purpose of furnishing the Democratic party with political capital in the Presidential campaign—a purpose in which it lamentably failed so far as the evidence it gathered had any effect on the minds of thoughtful workmen. On the contrary, the testimony which was elicited by the committee put the whole situation in a new light, and Judge Oates himself was forced to admit that he had no idea that such high wages were paid to workingmen in the manufacture of iron.

Chicago's new lake tunnel, four miles long, and costing $1,500,000, is just completed, after five years' work. It is a tunnel under the bottom of Lake Michigan, walled with stone, and watertight. A crib is built at the lake end, and the pure water thus furnished is used by the city water-works. Its construction was rendered necessary by the fact that the sewage of the Chicago river, in times of flood, polluted the water furnished through the old tunnel, which extended only two miles into the lake. Chicago, by its construction, has given another evidence of her public spirit and energy of achievement.

There seems to be, unfortunately, but little doubt that the death of James G. Blaine is a matter of only a little time. A few days, perchance a few weeks, and the earthly career of this country's greatest statesman will have closed. The bodily ailments which he is suffering are supplemented by a morbid state of mind, in which he evinces a fear of assassination. The family of the distinguished invalid have been very reticent about giving out any details of his illness, and this policy was impressed upon the attending physician; but at last enough has become public to make it reasonably certain that the end is only too near.

The suggestion is made that a complete list of all United States pensioners be published. The idea is that in every locality the names of those there residing, would show to the public who the men are who are drawing pensions. Then, if there be any not entitled, or any who are fully capable of earning their own living, or men of means drawing pensions, the lists can be "purged" of those persons.

Brazil is anxious for immigrants. Why not shunt the streams coming here to our neighbor to the south of us?

The wolves will be loose at Washington on March 4 next.

WHY CLEVELAND WON.

Shortly after the November election, The Blade asked its Weekly readers to send, not their own individual opinions as to the cause of the Democratic victory, but the actual reasons given by voters of Republican antecedents for voting the Cleveland or the Weaver electoral ticket. It is plain that the Democratic victory was due to Republicans who voted with them or with the People's party; and a resume of the reasons for their doing so gives the real cause for the landslide of November.

Many of our friends did not clearly understand, apparently what we wanted, and sent us their personal opinions. These will be used only where it is evident that they show the feelings actuating Republicans who did not vote with their party this year:

I. M. B., Frankfort, Ill.: Because I want cheaper clothing.

O. H., Plainfield, Ill.: Because I think the tariff is too high.

F. M. G., Yates Center, Kan.: Because of Republican class legislation and a constant contraction of the currency under their rule.

Do you not know that the volume of the currency was never greater than now, nor the per capita higher?

E. K. K., Yates Center, Kan.: Too much protection for the rich man, and not enough money in circulation.

F. L., Yates Center, Kan.: I do not propose to vote for a party that makes a man like Frick state chairman of Pennsylvania.

Frick is not, and never was, Republican chairman of Pennsylvania. He never took any part in politics, and never held office.

J. T., S. C. G., and J. W., Yates Center, Kan.: On account of the prohibition question.

D. M. D., Dillon, Ore.: 1.—Tariff too high. 2.—National banks. 3.—Want free coinage.

G. W. B., Springfield, Neb.: Republican party too much controlled by a machine.

D. J. B., Springfield, Neb.: Because I believe in free lumber, wool, salt, and no sugar bounty.

J. W. S., Maple City, Kan.: The following reasons are given—two Republican who have left the party since 1888: In this state free silver had more to do with it than anything else. The tariff laws would not have been objected to if hides were properly protected, and wool had a specific duty on it of so many cents per pound, regardless of quality. Farmers considers the carpet wool clause a steal. The administration is also blamed for leasing the Indian lands to Texas cattle men, for less per acre than our taxes amount to.

C. O., Ames, (no state): The first great cause was Whiteiaw Reid. When he disgraced the union men he was a marked man. We are in a restaurant and hotel, and have heard union men say that not a member voted for the Republican ticket.

W. F., Valley Mills, Ind., on behalf of T. K., Plainfield, Ill., and others: Because the Republican party has elected, have not tried to do what the majority of the people demanded in cutting down official salaries and thus lessening our taxes.

This is a state issue, not a national one. We know of no demand in any national platform for a reduction of federal salaries.

J. R., W. H., J. M., H. S. D., and O. M., Rockford, Ohio: All Republicans, voted for Weaver because they think the Republican party is making the rich richer and the poor poorer.

This charge is too general, besides besides being false. The poor are not getting poorer; on the contrary, men who are industrious never got as good wages as now. This reason does not agree with the letter of W. F. G., Newton, Ind., given below.

W. M., Gilman, Ind.: Because in my neighborhood there is a feeling that the Republican party has become a rich man's party (this feeling is, perhaps unintentionally) fostered and encouraged by Republican papers and speakers. Even The Blade, Dec. 1, page 4, says: "No more unpopular measure was ever enacted than the income tax law." Unpopular with whom? The rich millionaires who are absorbing the wealth faster than it is produced.

The present writer was, when a very young man, a clerk for a time in an internal revenue office in one of the large agricultural counties of Ohio. The men who objected to the tax most strenuously was the farmers themselves. The income tax was regarded, and with much reason, as an inquisitorial scheme, and as directly calculated to promote false swearing, since a man's income is something which few but himself know. It is not tangible or visible. The result was, the tax was unjust, because not bearing equally. And that would be the result of its enactment now.

J. W. E., Weston, Neb.: I did not vote the Republican ticket this fall because the Republican party has betrayed the people. I believe, in the free and unlimited coinage of silver, and because of "Rat" Reid.

H. C. C., Cochetopa, Colo.: This precinct casts twenty votes: Two years ago equally divided between Democrats and Republicans; this year, straight people's, Republican, Democratic and People's papers are taken by all the families. When asked the reasons for change, they say: "Both old parties are corrupt, and in the grasp of the 'money power,' passing laws in favor of monopolies and corporations, and against the people. A change is demanded, but little relief is expected until the third party comes into power."

S. T., Ankeny, Ore.: Five of the twelve Republicans of my neighborhood, including myself, voted for the Weaver electors because they favor the free coinage of silver; all are opposed to the national banking system, and favor the Alliance plan of national finance. I am a tariff man, first and last.

C. A. E., Abner, Tenn.: The reason Republicans here did not vote their ticket is because of Mr. Harrison. It was the candidate very much more than party principles that caused our defeat. He was nominated by Southern office-holders at Minneapolis, who did not represent a single general vote, against the advice and protest of nearly all the great party leaders. This was bad enough, but worse still, he kicked Blaine out of his Cabinet, he kicked Tarsney from the head of the national committee, when he was almost the unanimous choice of that committee for the place. His treatment of Judge Gresham and Col. Dudley cost the party tens of thousands of votes, and last but not least, although "individual disappointments" did not control at Minneapolis, they did help to defeat Mr. Harrison at the polls.

M. R. F., Toledo, O.: Because of the ingratiate and wasteful expenditure on pensions. I was not a soldier.

J. J. M., Montague, Tex.: My own reasons were: 1.—I think there have been the most outrageous frauds in the pension department that $125,000,000 would pay every dollar the ex-soldiers either ask or are entitled. 2.—President Harrison's openly expressed sympathy for negro rapists in the South. 3.—His using official power to secure a renomination against the wishes of the party.

J. E. F., Charlton Co., Mo.: 1.—From a farmer's standpoint, I can not see why we should be called on to give a part of our hard earnings to make some other man's business profitable. We have to ship the products of our labor to Europe and compete with all the pauper labor of the world; and the prices of our produce have to raise the market here. There is as much pauper labor on the farms of Europe as in the workshops; if one class has to compete, why not the other? Second, the policy of the Republican party on silver has demonetized it. (This correspondent writes on both sides of the paper; otherwise we should have used more of his interesting letter.—Ed. Blade.)

J. D. H., Carthage, Mo.: My reasons were: The credit-strengthening act of 1869; the war on silver, to make it still harder to pay the bonds, as well as private debts; making the rich richer, the poor poorer, by not expanding the currency.

W. F. G., Newton, Ind.: I have asked the voters here why they changed their votes for Cleveland. There are two reasons: First, that the manufacturing districts are drawing all the laboring class, and making labor very high; and in return the tariff did not raise the price of farm products. Farm labor has been as high as $2.50 per day during the summer. There has been all the time two jobs for every laborer in this district.

Second, there were several Democrats who voted the Republican ticket for the first time in their lives. And every one of them say that their said wages were higher than ever, and things cheaper.

The third class were the free silver howlers, saying there is not money enough; that the government should issue the money; in short, they were old greenbackers.

The second class consisted of 17 votes in our township. The first class consisted of 6 votes, out of a vote of 474.

We shall publish other replies in subsequent issues. We will be glad to publish letters giving actual reasons why Republicans voted the Democratic ticket, but do not care for the personal opinions of individuals. What we want are facts, not opinions.

THE FIRST SOUVENIR COINS ARRIVE.

On last Friday the first batch of the World's Fair souvenir half-dollars were shipped from the United States mint at Philadelphia. There were 50,000 of them sent direct to the United States sub-treasury in Chicago, and 10,000 went to New York, which were all bought at $1 apiece by Col. Elliott F. Shepard, who expects to sell them all at $2 apiece. We, however, do not wish to make a penny's profit on all we sell. The Blade's subscribers will get them at $1 each, and we, in addition, will pay cost of registering, postage and mailing from Chicago to every one who sends us his order in accordance with the offer made on the fifth page of this issue.

The coins were packed in twenty-five strong kegs, and reached Chicago on Sunday. They were stored under guard in the express office until Monday, when they were delivered at the sub-treasury.

World's Fair Souvenir Half Dollar, obverse. Larger than the coin itself.

Here the kegs were opened—the first one being that marked "special." This contained the first coin struck, for which a firm of type-writer manufacturers paid $10,000; also the 400th, 1,492d, and the ground-out 1,892d coins minted. These are all sold at fancy prices. The remaining 49,966 coins were delivered to the banks and firms in the order of the receipt of their applications.

Other shipments will follow rapidly. The mint officials are devoting much time and care to the minting of these coins. Col. Boyshell, in charge of the mint, says:

We are preparing them with the expectation that they will be kept by their possessors as medals and not for public circulation merely. This careful preparation necessitates a slow process and if they are demanded in a short time, a less careful preparation will have to be resorted to. More care and time was spent on the half dollar than ever before on any other coin and we all know how well they have worn.

The mint is coining 30,000 of them per day. About one million have already been coined, and the present rate will be kept up until all are coined. The Blade has received orders within the first week, for nearly 500 of them, and these orders will be filled as soon as the previous orders are all supplied. We understand that over half the entire five millions has already been ordered.

CHRISTMAS DAYS.

Once more the golden Christmas season has come round to gladden the Christian world; once more the glad festival of the Nativity calls upon poor fallen man to drop his cares and labors, and rejoice in the gift to us of Him who saves us from our sins. Well may the glad bells peal out upon the December air their brazen music, to remind mankind of that wonderful night when to the lowly shepherds, watching their flocks upon the Judean hills, appeared the angel bringing to them "tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people!"

Especially should we at this time give gifts to our children, in remembrance of the Gift that night bestowed upon our race. Most fitting is it that Christmas should be the great children's festival of the Christian year. He who came in the form of a helpless child, by so doing hallowed childhood forever more; and He confirmed it when He called a little child and sat him in the midst of His disciples, and taught them the lesson of humility, that "except ye become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Let us, then, make Christmas a glad some time for the little ones of our own households. Let us rejoice with them, and in their joy renew the pleasures of our own lost childhood. And let us not forget the children of suffering and want—the sick and the poor, especially. By giving to them of our abundance, we approach the nearer to the Divine ideal, and lay up treasures that will endure when the things of this earth have passed away. May all the readers of The Blade, young and old, enjoy a merry Christmas!

VOLUME SIXTY-ONE.

With its issue for the current week, the Toledo Weekly Blade begins its sixty-first volume. Its excellence seems to increase with age, to judge by the steady maintenance of its great subscription list. During the past year, it has averaged over 120,000 copies per week, and the prospects are that even a greater degree of popular favor will be extended to it during the coming twelvemonth. It is the one general weekly newspaper in the country whose circulation extends into every state and territory of the United States. It goes to over 25,000 postoffices, and it is the best general medium in this country whereby the intelligent advertiser may reach the masses of the American people. With thanks for the favor shown it in the past, it enters on a new volume determined to make itself still more worthy of the patronage of its myriad readers.

As The Blade has surmised, the silver men in Congress design that no bill looking to the repeal of the silver purchase clause of the act of July, 1890, shall get through if their efforts and management can prevent it. Senator Stewart has already introduced an amendment to Senator Hill's bill, the amendment providing for the free coinage of silver. It was referred to the finance committee of the Senate.

The National Brotherhood of Soldiers has been organized at Indianapolis. It is proposed to be a national body in the interests of the Democratic party. The object is to cultivate friendship, patriotism and Democratic politics. It is safe to say it will die a-borning.

George Gould starts in life with fifteen million of dollars in his own name; his father started with a mouse trap. Jay Gould had the advantage of being the son of a poor man.

"I would rather be right than President," was what Henry Clay said. To-day James G. Blaine is greater than any President since Lincoln, in the minds of the people.

Europe has 22,000,300 soldiers. How long will the idiotic people stand monarchical institutions? "War is a game that, were their subjects wise, kings could not play at."

New Mexico, in a total vote of 30,000, gave a Democratic plurality of only about 300. That territory appears to be marching into the Republican camp.

CURRENT E

Publishers' Desk.

GOOD WATCHES.

It is the constant aim of The Blade to serve its subscribers at all times in such a manner that each may be benefited many times the cost of his subscription. In fact, we believe that very many thousands of The Blade's subscribers are far richer to-day by reason of being subscribers to it. At all times we offer articles of utility at less than value, and we are constantly reaching out for something new, carefully avoiding trashy and useless articles. We have been importuned by our subscribers to supply GOOD watches. After careful consideration, we have made large purchases, for cash, at such low prices that we are able to offer our subscribers the best make of American movements, in the finest gold, gold-filled, or silver cases, at much less than the regular prices.

No one but subscribers can take advantage of these extraordinary offers. By this arrangement you are enabled to purchase a watch on such terms as would be given if several thousand persons should put their money together and buy watches at the very lowest jobbers' prices, saving the profits between the manufacturers and themselves, and getting the benefits of all possible discounts by reason of the magnitude of the purchase. Every subscriber needing a watch should embrace this opportunity; and every person in such need, and not a subscriber, should put himself in a position to secure this great advantage by subscribing for the Weekly Blade at once.

We give three days' trial free. When a purchaser receives a watch, he should submit it to any expert he may select, and if at the end of three days he is not satisfied that the watch is up to the guarantee, he should at once return it to this office, when his money will be refunded in full. No watches will be sent C. O. D., and no samples will be sent. Every watch is guaranteed to be the latest product of the Waltham or Elgin factories, whichever the purchaser may select.

These offers may not continue long, and on this account subscribers should order promptly. Every person receiving a sample copy of this paper should subscribe at once, so as to be able to purchase these goods to such advantage. Below will be found descriptions and prices of a few Waltham and Elgin watches, from the many styles made of these factories, which represent the greatest value for the money. No Swiss or other cheap watches are in our lists. Do not try to order anything through the Weekly Blade except the celebrated Waltham and Elgin watches—the best ever made.

Offer No. 1—The Toledo Blade Special.

GOLD WATCH, MEN'S SIZE, $16.75.

The watch and case-makers of the United States have for many years been trying to produce a watch that would be exactly like a $100 solid gold watch in everything except the expense. At last this has been accomplished. The Waltham Watch company has produced the most beautiful watch ever made. This watch is made for people who wish to carry a "thin model" watch. We mean that this watch does not take up much room in the pocket, the case being of the regular strength and thickness. The case is made of two plates of solid gold, 14 kt. fine, so thick that they will last twenty years. Between these plates is a thin sheet of stiff composition metal, the purpose of which is to protect the works from damage when the watch is pressed or struck. This feature saves many a bill for repairs—a great point for people at a distance from reliable watch-makers. The ring, joints, thumb-piece, and all parts subjected to constant wear, are solid gold, which, of course, will wear for generations. The works contain Logan's celebrated Breguet hair spring, a regulator so plain that a child can work it, seven valuable jewels, compensating expansion balance, safety pinion, stem-winding and pendant-setting apparatus, and many other improvements, the enumeration of which would be superfluous. The works much resemble the celebrated Waltham "Riverside," a movement known the world over. This watch is offered to Blade subscribers only, but any subscriber may buy all he wishes for his friends. Price of either Open Face or Hunting Case, delivered, $16.75.

Offer No. 2—Men's Size.

GOLD WATCH. $14.35.

No. 2 is a men's size Waltham or Elgin gold-filled hunting-case watch, stem wind and set; the works contain seven jewels, compensation balance, safety pinion, and all improvements. It is an accurate timepiece, which looks just like a $100 solid gold watch. The case is guaranteed to wear 15 years. Watch clubs and installment men have been selling this watch for $28. Our price by registered mail, delivery prepaid and guaranteed, is only $14.35.

Offer No. 3—Men's Size.

GOLD WATCH—$12.

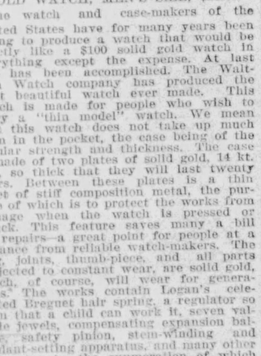
No. 3 is a magnificent gold-filled watch, with Waltham or Elgin works. In the works are seven jewels and all improvements, including expansion balance, plain regulator, etc. Purchasers can easily get $35 for this watch in cash or exchange. The manufacturers guarantee the case to wear 15 years just like solid gold. Price, by registered mail, $12.

All watches offered are stem-winders and setters.

Offer No. 4—Men's Size.

WALTHAM OR ELGIN—$5.50.

No. 4 is a men's size Waltham or Elgin watch, containing seven jewels, compensation balance and safety pinion, stem winding and setting apparatus, and all the latest improvements. The case is solid nickel silver, open face, and the crystal is made of plate glass, so heavy as to withstand any strain. The usual price of this watch is $8.50 to $12.50. We send it to subscribers by registered mail for $5.50.



Offer No. 5—Lady's Size.

SOLID GOLD WATCH—$22.50.

No. 5 is a genuine Waltham or Elgin watch, in a handsomely engraved solid gold case, warranted to be 14 K. gold. U. S. assay. The works are jeweled according to the latest principles, by which the best results are achieved. This watch represents the triumph of modern expert workmanship. Each watch is a stem-winder and setter, and contains compensation balance, patent safety pinion and tempered hair spring. We will send this elegant time-piece to any subscriber, delivery guaranteed and prepaid, for $22.50.

Offer No. 6—Lady's Size.

GOLD WATCH—$13.25.

No. 6 is a seven-jeweled lady's watch, in an engraved hunting case, the gold on which is guaranteed by the manufacturers to be standard, and good for at least 15 years' wear. Any lady in the land who is fortunate enough to get this watch will be proud to carry it. It is a magnificent timekeeper, and usually sells at from $18 to $25. Subscribers should sell it for $20. Sent by registered mail to any subscriber for only $13.25.

Offer No. 7—Lady's Size.

SOLID SILVER WATCH—$9.50.

No. 7 is a lady's size solid coin silver Waltham or Elgin watch. The works contain seven jewels, stem wind and set, and all improvements. This watch is just as good and handsome as a solid gold watch. Sold to subscribers only, delivered free, for only $9.50.

Offer No. 8—Blade Special.

Open Face or Hunting Case, Waltham or Elgin works. Be sure to name your choice when you order. A $200 solid gold watch cannot be bought for $22, but the Weekly Blade offers a watch under the above number that has all the appearance and most of the good qualities of a $200 watch. You have probably never seen a watch like this, and must therefore depend upon us for the description of the latest, handsomest and best watch made by the great American Waltham and Elgin national factories. Time and money have been expended in bringing this particular watch to perfection. The movement (or works) contains 15 jewels, compensation balance, safety pinion, Breguet hair spring, patent regulator, and all improvements. The case is the thinnest filled watch case ever made. Remember, we mean that the watch when closed in the pocket is thin. The lids of the case are the usual thickness, and form a perfect protection for the movement. The case is made of a plate of fine composition metal, over which two heavy sheets of 14k. gold are drawn, making a case that is for all purposes as good as solid gold, and warranted for 20 years. A written guarantee accompanies each watch. Every part which is subjected to constant wear, such as the ring, thumb-piece, joint plugs, hinges, etc., is of solid gold. The works are especially recommended where the most accurate time is required. This is just the watch for doctors, lawyers, clergymen, county committeemen, and all others who wish a really first-class article. As a present it cannot be excelled. It is a handsome and convenient form that it will even make a good and satisfactory ladies' watch, and it is especially recommended for school teachers and other professional women on account of its accuracy, which is equalled by no watch made especially for ladies.

After February 1 we are unable to say what the price will be, and we reserve the right to withdraw this offer at any time. We will send this watch, open face or hunting case, as desired, by registered mail to any of our subscribers for $22.00.

All men's size watches are equally suitable for boys' wear, and all lady's size watches for girls' wear. The great Waltham and Elgin watch companies make nothing but watches of high grade and full size.

In ordering BE SURE to state the number of the offer, say whether you want Elgin or Waltham, and give the price, that we may understand clearly what you want.

If you are not a subscriber to The Blade, add one dollar to prices above stated when you order, and we will enter you on our subscription list for one year. Address "THE BLADE, Toledo, Ohio."

"HEALTH AND BEAUTY."

We have remaining a very few copies of Miss Bouton's valuable book, "Health and Beauty," bound in red cloth, and making most beautiful as well as valuable Christmas presents. We will send them, postpaid by mail, for 60 cents each—that is, 50 cents for the book and 10 cents postage.

OR, we will furnish a copy of the Weekly Blade one year and send a copy of the book by mail, postpaid, for $1.50.

When the few on hand are sold, no more copies of this book can be had. Order quickly, or you will be too late! Address "The Blade, Toledo, Ohio."

BEAUTIFUL PICTURES.

There is nothing which so adds to a home as nice pictures upon its walls. The Blade has sold tens of thousands of pictures—copies of the most celebrated paintings in the world. Only one person can own the original, but everbody can have a good copy at a very low price. Most of these pictures are done in high colors, in close imitation of the original painting. One or two of them are photographic etchings, and very artistic. Sizes of these pictures either 17x24 or 21x28. We now offer the following:

1. The Roman Chariot Race.
2. The Retreat From Moscow.
3. Christ Leaving the Praetorium.
4. Napoleon at Friedland.
5. Christ Before Pilate.
6. The Grand Canal of Venice.
7. The Horse Fair.
8. Columbus at the Court of Spain.
9. The Landing of Columbus.

Any one of the above pictures will be sent by mail, postpaid, inclosed in a stout pasteboard tube, for 25 CENTS.

Or, we will send any five of them you may choose for ONE DOLLAR.

Address all orders: THE BLADE, Toledo, Ohio.

BLADE CHINA TEA SETS and BLADE WASHING MACHINES.

Our Blade tea sets and Blade washing machines were very popular premiums last year, and are often inquired for. The offers for both made last year hold good for this season also. Our old readers are familiar with the offers, or have copies of The Blade containing them. New ones who wish to know what the offers are will please drop us a postal card, and we will send a copy of both advertisements, exactly as they were published last year. Briefly they are as follows:

An 80-piece china tea set and the Weekly Blade one year for $7; or the tea set as a premium for every club of 11 subscribers, accompanied by $11.

The washing machine and the Weekly Blade one year for $5; or the washing machine as a premium for a club of 10 subscribers, accompanied by $10. Send for a copy of the offers.

SIGNS IN THE SKY.

How Fishermen Watch for Changes in Weather.

Many of the fishermen's beliefs about the weather have a foundation in truth, though he whistles for wind and sticks his knife into the side of the mast from which he wishes the wind to come. The direction from which the wind will blow is to him indicated by the course that falling stars take. A breeze is always preceded by a flood tide, a calm generally begins with the ebb. Rain is also more abundant during the ebb.

Some of their old sayings are:

When the wind backens against the sun, Trust it not for back it'll run.

When the sun draws water on the ebb or in the morning, keep your eye open for fair weather and sun dogs.

Cracks in the water seen in calm weather means an easterly gale.

"Mackerel skies and mares' tails
Make lofty ships carry low sails."

"Rainbow in the morning,
Sailors take warning.
But a rainbow at night,
Sailors delight."

Evening red and morning gray,
Are sure signs of a pleasant day;
But evening gray, morning red,
Will bring rain down on your head."

"If the morning is marked by an Easterly glin,
The evening will bring rain to wet your skin."

"If in the southwest you see a smurry sky,
Douse your flying kites for a storm is nigh."

(Glin means a clear east sky, and generally precedes a storm; while a smurry sky is the leaden cloudy sky which has a greasy appearance.)—New York Press.

THE WAY THEY PUT IT.

When the small boy starts early for the pantry, it isn't to avoid the jam.—Inter-Ocean.

Perhaps it was the bearded lady who said "My face is my fortune."—Washington Star.

Talk is cheap. This is partly due to the fact that so much of it is needed to be discounted.—Philadelphia Times.

A man never realizes how much furniture he owns until he tries to walk rapidly through his own house in the dark.—Puck.

It has been discovered that wine will kill the bacilli of cholera in a few minutes. This will probably stagger a great many.—Inter-Ocean.

The Atchison man who says he wants his advertisement put in a "suspicious" place in the paper, has a cousin who calls occasionally to see a copy of last night's "addition."—Atchison Globe.

The government is going to put on public sale about the first of the year a fine steel-plate engraving of the "Landing of Columbus" for the small sum of two cents per copy. The engraving has been reduced from Vanderlyn's painting for the Postoffice department.—Philadelphia Ledger.

After Hidden Treasure.

A Jesuit priest named Pierre Guerre recently arrived in the City of Mexico, and announced his intention to his nurse to dig for $21,500,000 in gold, which had been buried two centuries ago in the old cathedral in the little town of Typozotlan, near that city. Father Guerre soon sickened and died, and then the old nurse sold her secret to a company, which will now dig around the walls of the old church. It is known that $500,000 was unearthed from beneath the altar of this church when it was undergoing repairs during the administration of President Ignacio Comfort, hence some credence is placed in the story, and the digging is likely to be fast and laborious.

THE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

HISTORY OF ITS ORIGIN.

How the Date Was Fixed—The Yule Log—The Legend of Santa Claus—Christmas Gifts and the Christmas Tree.

With the beginnings of Christian history we have mention of particular holidays that were celebrated with more or less joyfulness. They were called feast days, and were observed, first of all, with church services, and then with feasting and mirth. Clemens Alexandrinus, who died about one hundred years after St. John, alludes to the Christmas feast as an established custom. The decretal letters attribute its institution to Pope Telesphorus, who died about A. D. 138, but unfortunately the decretal letters are not a specially good authority in the case. At first it seems to have been kept, conjointly with Epiphany, on the 6th of January, but in the course of time, either from the desire to arrange the celebrations of the events of Christ's life in a natural sequence, or else from the influence of some tradition, the 25th of Dececmber was generally agreed upon as the time for the celebration. This day seems to have first been settled in the Western or Latin church, for in the East it is narrated to have been movable for a considerable time, and in some years to have been observed as late as April and May. Among the generally accepted legends concerning it is the historical narrative that, in consequence of the urgency of St. Cyril, the pope, Julius I., gave orders for an investigation to be made, and as a result the 25th of December was declared to be the date appointed, and this narrative was probably a true one, for St. Augustine about 430 A. D.) mentions this date as having been introduced in the East about ten years before. The East, however, seems at first to have made much more of the actual feast than the West, for among the earliest Greek hymns are a goodly number bearing upon the nativity.

Christmas legends abound, and out of them we get a better record of the thoughts and customs of the people of the olden time than we do from all the stories that have been written. One of these oldest legends tells the story that all nature rejoiced with mankind, above all that the animals in the barn-yard and the cattle in the stall so rejoiced.

The cock, as an essential English bird, had a particularly prominent part in this belief. At exactly the time that Christ was born he was certain to wake and crow exultingly. The ox was currently believed to know all about the festival, and it was said that every Christmas morning the oxen were accustomed to kneel in worship of the new-born child; the legend was told not only of them, but of animals generally.

In mediaeval times important helps to the merriment were the mummers and waits. Some special man was appointed to preside over the festivities, and his title was the "Lord of Misrule." In some great families and occasionally at court he was called the "Abbott of Misrule."

The waits were musicians, who were accustomed to play every night for the two or three weeks preceding Christmas. At one time a body of these waits were attached to the king's court and were paid by giving them the position of watchmen, in which office they were required to patrol and guard the streets and proclaim the hours of the night. Down to the year 1820 the waits had an official position in the city of London, and had a vested right to play on the streets on the nights before Christmas, and make application to the citizens for Christmas presents. The famous yule log is a lineal descendant of the ancient Goths and Saxons, who, in the good old pagan days, were accustomed to observe a great festival at the time of the winter solstice, a part of which was the building of huge fires, the first kindling of great feasts. The name that they gave was jul or yule, and at these feasts a liquor was drank which they called oel, from which comes our English word ale. The yule-log or yule-clog was generally lighted on Christmas Eve, and was, says Soane, as large as the hearth would admit of or the means of the rejoicers could supply; and in some of the northern counties of England, so long as the log lasted the servants were entitled to ale at their meals. At one time custom prescribed that it should be lighted with a brand of last year's block, which had been carefully put by and preserved for that purpose.

The famous misletoe occupies a curious position among the Christmas decorations. As it was regarded as a symbol emanating from the heathenish rights to Druidism, the priests would never would admit it into the churches, but the people clung to the old associations in spite of their Christian teachers. The sacred bush kept its place for many centuries in the kitchen, but not in the hall. Somehow, no one knows how, it gained a prominence from the supposed right of any young man to salute with a kiss any maiden who passed beneath the bough. Then it became only a question of time when it should be as popular in the hall as in the kitchen. It is hardly two and a half centuries since it came into use as a common decoration of dwellings.

The excellent Santa Claus is a comparatively late addition to the store of Christmas legends. It had its origin among the Germans in post-reformation times, and came to this country with the Holland Dutch who settled in New York. It is queer that German Protestants should, by general consent, unite to do honor to this Eastern bishop, but such is the fact, and no one knows how it happened, but the following is supposed to be the way: St. Nicholas was born at Patara, a city of Lycia, and for his piety was made bishop of Tyria. His fame as an educator of youth became so great that an Athenian gentleman sent his two sons to the bishop that he might teach them. It was late in the day when they arrived, and instead of going at once to the bishop's house they stopped for the night at an inn. The landlord, in order to take possession of their effects, killed the boys, cut them in pieces and salted them down in a pickling tub with his pork. About this time the good St. Nicholas had a vision of what had been done, and going to the inn he denounced the landlord for his villany. Being detected he became very repentant, and asked the good bishop to forgive him and pray to God for him. He granted his petition, and prayed God not only to forgive, but to restore the boys. No sooner was his prayer ended than the mangled remains of the two boys came out of the pickling tub, and began to put themselves together. Soon they were reunited and threw themselves at his feet to ask his blessing. The goodness of the saint, that led him to forgive the murder, was shown on many other occasions. His connection with secret giving is narrated to have had its origin in a legend that described his giving portions to three daughters of a poor citizen. This he affected by throwing a purse filled with money in at the bedroom window.

Out of this legend has grown the modern use of St. Nicholas in connection with the Christmas festival, and the custom of giving presents secretly at that time. The modern Christmas box is a term now applied to gifts of money at Christmas, but anciently it signified the boxes in which gifts were deposited. The custom has its origin in Paganalia, which was instituted by Servius Tullus, B. C. 559. On those festivals, celebrated at the beginning of the year, an altar was erected in every village, and to the box placed upon it, every man, woman and child was expected to contribute coin. Aubery mentions a pot, in which Roman coins were found, and supposed it to be one of these Paganalian vessels. The Christmas box in its first use was so like this heathen custom that it is supposed to have been taken from it.

The Christmas tree was first brought to England from Germany, by Coleridge, or at least he was the first who called public attention to its beauty and significance in a letter from Ratzburg, North Germany. It was taken up by a few leading families, and has grown in popularity every year since. The Germans claim it as peculiar to themselves, and as having grown out of their Christian history. They identify it with the apostolic labors of St. Maternus, one of the earliest of their gospel preachers. They have a legend of his sleeping under a fir tree, and of a miracle that occurred on that occasion. But the Christmas tree is traceable to the Roman Saturnalia, and was probably introduced into Germany by the conquering Roman legions.

PEOPLE AND THE DAY.

A flat purse means a stout Christmas tree.

Better a paid pork chop than a fat turkey on tick.

The small boy cannot be judged by his conduct on Christmas eve.

It's a foolish girl who gives her beau the mitten before Christmas.

There are no Christmas presents the tradesman gives with better grace than receipted bills. Give him a chance.

We give our thanks on Christmas eve, For the gifts we think we're 'bout to receive.

The man who quarrels with his wife on Christmas day is worse than a horse-thief. Let him be anathema.

Blessed are the babies on Christmas day; they can be put off with cheap candy.

The head of the family expends many dollars on presents, and receives two handkerchiefs and a pair of mitts. This is the time to be merry.

A sealskin sacque makes a devout Christmas church-goer.—Christmas Puck.

AT YULE TIDE.

Helgho, the winter! the bluff old fellow,
In meadow and field he roars amain.
The maple that late was decked in yellow,
Has doffed its leaves in the dusty lane.
Helgho, sweetheart! I will find thy tippet,
Thy dainty hood for thy golden head,
And out in the frosty air we'll trip it,
And over the stubble gaily tread.

Helgho, the winter! he brings the holly,
The frolic of Yule's enchanted tree;
And the mistletoe—now, by my folly,
There will be a kiss for thee and me!
Helgho, sweetheart! with a "Hey down derry"
We'll sack the wood of its treasures now.
But, O! there's never a bramble berry
Is half so red as thy lip, I vow!
—Nelly Booth Simmons.

LATEST THINGS OUT.

A snowshoe for wagon wheels.

A machine for sharpening razors.

A flexible covering for water pipes to be submerged under rivers.

A machine that attaches trouser buttons as fast as you can count.

A ventilated car door made up of perforated plates in the form of panels.

A pipe to make soap bubbles with certainty and considerable length of life.

A sewing needle provided with a bevel-shaped eye for easy threading.

An incandescent lamp with three independent carbon filaments connected with the same terminals.

A hitching device consisting of a coiled spring on a rell, arranged so as to operate like the spring roller skate.

A photograph album which is swung on bearings, the whole arrangement being placed on a permanent stand.

A pneumatic tube door-bell pull, consisting of a lever that can be drawn downward and in so doing operates a small air pump.

A device for vehicles by which the shafts may be easily detached by the driver whenever the horse becomes unmanageable.

A hay saver consisting of a three-sided device which enables the horse to insert his head into the manger but does not permit any lateral movement of it.

Cuspidores arranged in a series connected by a flushing pipe, and having a lever which turns on the water and closes the cuspidores at the same moment.

A soap-cake holder, consisting of a shank with curved points which, when driven into the soap, will act as barbs when any attempt is made to withdraw the device.

PRESIDENT DIAZ.

His Inauguration More Than Usually Magnificent.

The third inauguration of President Diaz on December 1 included a parade of 20,000 men, banquets, a grand ball and a pyrotechnical display. He was first elected in 1876 by a revolution against Lardo; in 1880 he was ineligible to the office, but he practically put his friend Gonzales into the place. In 1888 and again in 1892 President Diaz was elected by such overwhelming majorities that his campaign was almost unopposed.

Since his Presidency he has strengthened himself and his Liberal party against the Clericals, and laid a foundation of a lasting peace. He has remodelled the army and introduced a new corps of splendidly drilled men, and has done much to perfect a railway system which shall consolidate the smaller states, and open commerce with the United States.

PRESIDENT DIAZ.

President Diaz has also put money into an empty treasury, placated a discontented people, secured subsidies for railroads, and as a consequence greatly increased Mexico's credit in Europe. It is to be hoped that in his present term he will succeed in establishing a better international commerce with Mexico than the imperfect one now existing between the two countries.

FOR WOMEN ONLY.

The telegraph companies of the United States employ 37,000 women operators.

Nearly 65 per cent of the public school teachers in the United States are women.

Susan B. Anthony, debarred of her ambition to vote, has, nevertheless, received a public office. She has been appointed by Governor Flower as manager of the State Industrial school.

A home for governesses is to be founded by the Prussian government in Woltingerode in the province of Hanover. The minister of education went to Woltingerode to inspect some government buildings, which it is thought may be utilized for the purpose.

Brooklyn has a school for carpentering for women. Some very fine work has already been turned out, and why not? If a man knows how to fix a worn-out floor or a broken window sash—but doesn't do so—why shouldn't a woman learn how to do it, and do it if she wants to?

"Gyp" announces a new volume of short dialogues—"Monsieur le Duc." The vicomtesse de Martel, as she is known in French society, is said to make as large a literary income as did George Sand in her palmiest days, and this although, with one trifling exception, she has never produced a play.

In Melbourne there is a society known as the Daughters of the Court. There are seventeen divisions, each consisting of ten members, who devote themselves to the study of art, literature and the domestic virtues. Candidates for admission are required to make a solemn promise to speak ill of no one, and to do at least one helpful deed for some one every day.

The Crown Princess Stephanie of Austria has been asked to contribute some of her sketches of the Plattensee and Pressburg for the illustrations of the poet Moritz Jokai's new book "Die Oesterreichisch-ungarr-rische Monarchie in Wort und Bild." The poet has received a letter from her highness in which she promised him sketches of the Siebenberger and Croatia, and later sketches of the other districts.

The three-cornered hat is in high favor, as are also all kinds of odd shapes. Those who have soft felt hats may, with confidence, crush them into any shape that is becoming and be quite sure that they are wearing fashionable headgear. Sometimes the brims are allowed to project over the face and again they rise directly up from the brow, leaving the extension at either one side or the other. Rosettes of satin ribbon are much used for trimming these hats.

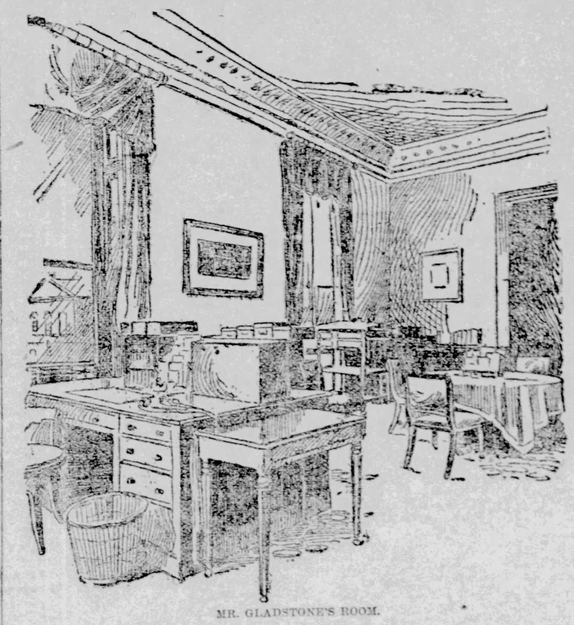
WHERE GLADSTONE LIVES

PLAIN HOUSE IN DOWNING ST.

And It Was Once a Famous Residence Way Back in Addison's Time—Mr. Gladstone's Own Room.

One of the modern delvers into musty fact-bins for treasure trove to tickle the palates of periodical readers has hauled out with his book and exhibited with pride the fact that 10 Downing street, the official residence of the chancellor of the Exchequer, stands on the site of Henry VIII's. cockpit, made when he enlarged Whitehall palace. There was once a row of these stately brick houses built all alike by Sir George Downing in 1680, or thereabouts, but of these only three now remain—No. 10, the residence since Robert Walpole of the First Lord, No. 11, the residence of the chancellor of the exchequer, and No. 12, used by the government whips.

The whole British government, with its acres of offices, miles of red tape, buckets of ink, barrels of pens, and square miles of parchments, centers in Downing street. Downing street is synonymous with the roar of the British



MR. GLADSTONE'S ROOM.

lion. At the barest whisper of its name the dusky potentates of Borrioboola Gha and Timbuctoo are supposed to tremble at the name of Downing street, much as the haunted wretches in Darkest England grow pale at the mention of Scotland Yard. And of Downing street, No. 10 is the focus.

Yet the street is but a little cul-de-sac which no one ever happens upon, but must be found by seeking. And No. 10, where lives the venerable Gladstone at the present moment, is but an old-fashioned house with its crumbling railing, its old-style area, and ancient lights, taking one back to bygone days when statesmen in knee-breeches and dainty wigs sat in council as "His Majesty's confidential servants." Generations of statesmen have come and gone since its foundations were laid. In Addison's time it was a famous residence. George I. settled his Hanoverian minister in it when he came over to England from Hanover, and George II. gave it to "Every-Man-Has-His-Price" Walpole. All the prime ministers of the century have been familiar with it, and of its old council chamber, now used by Mr. Gladstone's secretaries, many tales are told with somebodies and nobodies as their heroes. Here probably, in the vast old room with its painted and capitalled pillars and its book shelves and records and the famous long table with its green cloth cover, must the old Duke of Newcastle have aired his knowledge of American geography. "Oh! yes—yes, to be sure! Annapolis must be defended. Troops must be sent to Annapolis. Pray, where is Annapolis?" "Cape Breton an island? Wonderful! Show it to me on the map. So it is, sure enough. My dear sir, you always bring me good news. I must go and tell the king Cape Breton is an island."

The outer reception room has the same fluted columns of wood simulating marble, with heavily molded jams and casings, a wide fireplace and modern furniture which looks rather out of place in such an ancient room. All is dreary, cold and official, as is the case with every room save, perhaps, the private apartments into which the casual visitor does not penetrate.

The dining-room is a venerable wainscoted apartment much used in his day by the Earl of Beaconsfield, whose famous Parliamentary dinners gave, in his opinion, "tone to a political party." The queen's birthday banquets are given here, but it is not much used by Mr. Gladstone. His famous Thursday breakfasts were given in the inner reception room adjoining. The old-fashioned brass sconces for candles, the vaulted ceiling painted in divers colors, the fine old chandelier recall the times of Walpole, and help one without much effort to people the old room with the distinguished guests of his and other days.

Much of this air of formalism is relieved by the feminine kickshaws and bric-a-brac which Mrs. Gladstone, Miss Gladstone and Mrs. Henry Gladstone scatter about the rooms. And if one is so fortunate as to get a peep into the old, prim British garden with its terraces and its wonderful turf, on a day when the sun shines bright and warm upon the scene, he will feel that there are some pleasant features about 10 Downing street, after all.

Mr. Gladstone's own room, the cut of which is reproduced from the Pall Mall Budget, is a smaller apartment, well lighted and filled with books and the litter of work. Books are most sacred objects of interest to Mr. Gladstone, and it is real pain to him to see a book rubbed or damaged by careless treatment. His method of reading is more that of the tortoise than the hare. He has never acquired the act of skipping; he can not boast like Carlyle of reading a page of Gibbon "with one flash of his eye."

Mr. Gladstone works until midnight, keeps nearly nine hours, answers many letters which have been sorted out for him by his secretaries and his son and daughter. In the afternoon he may be seen at a booksellers, at a friend's house for a moment, then dinner, and a quiet studious evening. Such is the daily life of the man who is the core of Downing street, of England and of the British empire.

The Infant Drummer.

About the time Blind Tom started out to show his wonderful gifts Macon developed a musical prodigy, though in a different line. In the alley back of Eads, Neel & Co.'s store was a blacksmith shop owned by a man named English, a quiet sort of a man, and very popular in his business. One day he bought his 3-year-old boy a drum—It might have been a gift from Santa Claus—and great was his astonishment when the baby rattled away on the drum with the skill of a professional. Of course such a precocious boy soon became known to Macon, and a mention of it in the Telegraph fell under the eye of P. T. Barnum, who was then in his prime. The great showman sent an agent to Macon as fast as steam and coach could bring him. After a good deal of parleying the agent succeeded in securing young English, it being understood that his mother would accompany him. Then the New York papers were filled with mention of "The Infant Drummer" and for years he was one of the features of Barnum's museum.—Macon Telegraph.

A CHINESE MAN.

He Ceases to Be a Boy When His Head Is Shaved.

What is the most important event in the life of an American boy or a little English boy? Why, it is when he takes off his knickerbockers and goes into long trousers, is it not? From that time he ceases to be a little boy merely, and begins to take on some of the cares and duties of a grown-up man.

Perhaps he is given a latchkey at that time. Perhaps his father trusts him to be his sister's escort upon little railway journeys. Perhaps he is allowed a voice in deciding family questions. Something is surely done to mark the change from little boyhood into young manhood.

That is the way with little boys in this part of the world.

But in China it is different. What do you suppose is done for a boy when he has reached the age when he is tired of kite flying and playing with Chinese toys? Why, his head is shaved and he is prepared for a queue!

The celebration of the event is a very important one in a Chinese household. All the friends and relatives are invited and are expected to give the boy a very nice present in money. The boy himself is elegantly dressed in silk robes, and is perfumed as sweet as fresh spices can make him. When all are assembled his father makes a speech, the relatives present him with a purse of money, and then the Chinese priest shaves the boy's head for a queue. And he is launched upon the world as a man. How different from the informal way the American boys go forth into the world. Isn't it?—New York Ledger.

Supply of Emeralds Decreasing.

Emeralds are said to be steadily disappearing. In the '50s and '60s emeralds were the favorite jewels, and were worn strung on a thread like pearls. Such a string of emeralds was exhibited in a jeweler's window in Unter den Linden and was estimated to be worth 12,000 marks. Now emeralds are no longer polished into a round form, but are polished like diamonds. Faultless stones of a deep color have always been as valuable as diamonds. The reason of the scarcity of emeralds is the decrease in production of the Ural mountains. Emeralds were first discovered on the right bank of the Tokowoier, near Katharineburg, in 1830, and in the first years the harvest was a rich one. Now the decrease, both in quantity and quality, hardly repays the labor. The harvest of emeralds in Labachtal, in the Salzburger Alps, has also proved disappointing, so that emeralds are now only to be had from Australia and Muso, near Santa Fe de Bogota, in Colombia, in any appreciable quantity. The latter spot has been noted for its emeralds since the sixteenth century.

Abbreviated Qualities.

Cawker—Which are the most observant letters of the alphabet?

Mrs. Cawker—Give it up. Which are?

C. E.

"Good enough. Now, which are the most worthless?

"I don't know."

"N. G."—Truth.

THE FIN DE SIECLE GIRL.

"What do you know, oh maiden fair?"
"Oh, I know much," she made reply;
"I know of Homer and Moliere;
I can make poetry if I try.
Or send sonatas with a crash
Out of my three-legged parlor grand;
Play Wagner with terrific dash,
And 'Home, Sweet Home' with my left hand;
Also can sing, whenever I please,
Variegate the general din,
Removing with dispatch and ease
Concertos from my violin;
I know talking, dancing, Kant,
Zoology and how to box,
And the name of every plant;
The solstices and equinox.
The only things I do not know,
Is how to cook and how to sew."
—Chicago News.

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Cut this out and send it to us with your full name and address and we will send you this elegant watch by express for examination, and if you think it equal to watches sold by others at $10.00 pay our sample price, $1.98, and it is yours. Warranted with the finest 7 jewel movement made and to run correctly for 20 years. Write us at once if you want one. Only one watch sent to one address at this price. Address
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I SAVED $3 2 $4
New Pug Machine $7. Free CHOICE for 25 days. Week's Nat. Live Stock and Farm Journal, $1; all three one year $3. Home Weekly Woman's Illustrated Weekly $1.00; all three one year $2. Send this adv., 10c (if you like it) and A. G. Dearborn, Chicago, Ill.

MARRIED LADIES, our new COMPANION will save you worry and doubt. Indispensable, reliable, safe, sealed, prepaid, 50c. Noverchere, Reliable Supply Co., 68 Broadway, N.Y.

SEXUAL dreams, whites, impotency, etc. Sure cure by mail $1, of F. P. FOY, Corrington, Ky.

Suppose you mix a little common sense with sentiment in gift-making this Christmas. For instance in buying a watch, get a Fahys 14 Karat Monarch Gold Filled Case. An expert cannot tell it from solid 14 karat gold. It's more durable and costs much less, yes, very much less, and the maker guarantees it. Your jeweller will tell you that what we've said is so.

Fahys

NOW BE LIVELY!

Order Quickly! This Offer Cannot Last Long!

A World's Fair Souvenir Coin and the Weekly Blade One Year for $2!

The Toledo Blade has made a special arrangement with the World's Columbian Exposition, to send, by registered mail, to individual addresses, such orders as we may send them for the famous World's Fair Souvenir Half Dollars. This arrangement will be made with no other newspaper in the United States. Owing to the rapid demand in advance for these coins this premium offer can not last very long. But five million of these coins will be struck. More than twenty million people are striving each to get one coin.

Our advices from the Executive Department of the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago indicate that the orders now coming in will absorb, at the outset, the greater portion of the issue of Columbian half-dollars. Most of the orders already on file are from banks, manufacturers, and corporations in large cities. This would seem to indicate that the people in the interior will find it difficult to obtain a single coin.

The Blade, always acting in the interest of its readers, has made the arrangement in order to distribute these coins direct to the people. Those of our readers who are waiting an opportunity to obtain one of these souvenir coins through local banks or otherwise will no doubt be disappointed, as the larger cities will absorb the entire output very quickly, and then the price will advance very rapidly, to perhaps $5 each.

The price at which these coins are sold by the World's Fair officials is $1 each. The Blade pays a dollar in cash for every one that we will send out. We also add the additional expense of postage and registering, and other mailing expenses. We shall have the satisfaction, however, of placing in the hands of every reader who wishes it, a souvenir coin, delivered free of all charges, to your very door. You will be saved the trouble, expense and premium on one of these coins obtained elsewhere, should you be so fortunate as to secure any other opportunity of obtaining one. In fact, we think it safe to say that, so far as one-half of our readers are concerned, they will not obtain coins at all, unless they take this opportunity.

Simply remit us $2 in current funds—one dollar of which will pay for the Weekly Blade one year, or if you are already a subscriber, your time will be extended one year.) For the other dollar, we will book you for one of these coins, which will be mailed to you by the Treasury Department of the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago, by registered mail, all charges paid, just as soon as the coins reach Chicago.

We can not announce definitely the date mailing will commence, but it will be some time in December. To urge the immediate importance of attending to this matter very quickly, we guarantee that our first and earliest orders will be filled. Probably all the orders we receive during December are certain of filling, and perhaps longer; orders in January may possibly be filled.

Remember, however, we do not guarantee to fill orders which reach us too late—that is, those that reach us after the supply is exhausted. We shall withdraw this advertisement as soon as we see the supply is giving out. Of course, we intend to return all money received for orders that we can not fill.

Every American citizen expects to have one of these coins. In the very nature of things, four-fifths of our adult population will be disappointed. Those of our readers who are disappointed ones will be offering a big premium to gratify his ambition to own one. There is no reason why every Blade reader shall not own one. If you only send your order quick enough, you are sure of it. There will be no other opportunity from any source to obtain one of these coins, mailed, postpaid, to your address, as no other paper in the United States has this arrangement.

No matter whether you are a subscriber or not; no matter whether your time expires this month or several months hence; our only requirement is that $2 be sent us at $2 next week, they will make sure of

The Household

Miss EMILY S. BOUTON, Editor.

HOME IS THE KINGDOM AND LOVE IS THE KING.

CEMENTED.

Aye, wet the shattered edges daintily,
Place them together in the ancient shape,
Match hue and fair design with careful eye,
And let no fragment from your search escape;
So, place the cup where no keen sunbeams glance,
Pshaw, does such injured beauty pay your pain?
'Twill hold a mimic waxen bud, perchance,
But never water for a rose again.

Unsay the angry words; the charge recall;
Deny, or plead away doubt, slight, or sneer;
Before the outraged shrine for pardon fall,
Win back the smile with the forgiving tear;
The happy safety of affection, lost—
Trust and its frank free gladness fled together—
What boots to feign the faith, to count the cost?
The wounded love will bear the scar forever.

—Charles Kiely Shetterly in Kate Field's Washington.

HOME TALKS.

ASK IT OF YOURSELF.

The Holiday Season a Good Time for That Purpose—Abby Morton Diaz Speaks to the Point—Self-Worship.

I remember reading once in the journal of a sojourner in Japan about the effort that kindly people made there to make Christmas day for him a time of happiness and rejoicing. They brought all sorts of greenery to his house and put it in holiday garb that it might bear somewhat the look of his far-away home over the sea. One little Jap, however, gazing around with interest, went from room to room with a look of curious expectancy upon his face. Finally, having made the rounds and evidently not finding what he sought, he sidled up to the gentleman and whispered confidentially, "Where is your god house?"

A very funny question it seems, but of course the little fellow did not understand why there was no material image of the Master whose birthday was thus celebrated. He wanted to see Him, wanted to know how He looked—this god of the stranger from across the water. Doubtless it appeared very strange to his young mind that there should be no visible representation of the Deity whose coming had made these people so happy. His trouble is the same as that of older people who demand material manifestations of whatever they are asked to believe.

This thought, however, has nothing whatever to do with what I started out to say. The little Jap's question is one which, at this Christmas season, it would be well for each and every one of us to put to ourselves. Where is our individual god-house, in which rests our God, the one we worship, and hold fast to under all circumstances? I fear if it could be found and set before us, its occupant would often prove more hideous and grotesque to our real sight than any Hindoo or Indian idol the mind of man ever conceived of.

And this is the reason why. Most of us are worshiping self. It is a hard thing to realize, a still harder thing to acknowledge, but nevertheless true. In our very giving and doing for others the element of selfishness is apt to come in largely. The man who refuses to assist another because he does not see how it is going to benefit himself any, is really acting openly in the same line as we are when we work under some philanthropic name for the prestige which it gives before the public.

The image, the god hidden away in its house, is not only the product of action, but of thought, shaped by one as much as by the other. I have spoken of this before, of the absolute power of thought, and it is coming to be more and more widely acknowledged. To the outer world an action may appear self-sacrificing and dictated solely by a desire for the good of others. In reality, it may be the product of a sudden impulse of pity under excitement; or, if the action is a continued one, it may come of a restless longing to do something for change; to be brought into contact with others for entertainment; to pose before the community as a benefactor. It is the thought back of the action that shapes the god, and in all of these cases its name is Self.

Why do I say these things at this time? Because there is no season when pointed questions like that of the little Jap can be asked of oneself to better advantage. In the first place, so much of this Christmas giving is the fruit of selfishness. It is a good thing to halt and ask ourselves how true this is in our own case. Then it is near the beginning of the New Year, and while in reality we may order our lives anew one day as well as another, there is always something about the incoming of a year which we are to know under a different name from the last one, that renders a good resolution easier to make and easier to begin to carry out.

And so it is a good time for us during the coming holidays to ask ourselves solemnly and earnestly, where our god-house is, and what manner of a god have we placed therein? We shall be astonished to find that the very virtues we have, unconsciously it may be, plumed ourselves upon, are really only other forms of self-worship, and that our neighbor, who seems so careless of what we hold as essentials, is nearer practicing Christ's law of love than we are, though our colors are flying and our drums are beating.

I was reading the other day an article in The Woman's Review, by Mrs. Abby Morton Diaz, who has a way of going to the root of things which makes her words strike home most forcibly. She was talking about the necessity for good-doing and how universally it is felt, and that wherever there is a community there, too, cluster philanthropies, charities and reforms, and she asks, "what are the requirements for this work other than leisure, pecuniary abundance, together with a desire to do somebody some good." Evidently, from what follows, she does not believe that the doing of such work well is consonant with any worship of the god of self. She says:

"The many requisites for this doing-good vocation would suggest that all engaging in it follow the fashion of employment bureaus, and make out a question-formula for themselves as applicants.

"1.—Am I always to be depended upon for whatever I undertake?

"2.—Am I strictly honest, never by tardiness stealing other people's time?

"3.—Am I impersonal, able always to keep the Cause in front of Me?

"4.—In submitting a plan or an idea, can I discuss it, and hear it discussed just exactly as if it were not mine?

"5.—Can I consider an alleged fault of my own just as amiably, and as critically as if it were alleged of some other person?

"6.—(Though first in importance.) In associating with others, whether as working with them, or extending aid to them, do I carry out the foundation principle of all religion, and feel myself to be one with each and all, of whatever conditions; that in the deep things of the heart, the realities, we are all alike; that none of our belongings, whether our riches, or our worldly position, our wardrobes, our upholstery, our learning, our manners, our culture, or our goodness, can be distinctively separating boundaries between us and our kind—between us and any of our kind? Do I recognize that Divine in each which should make us hold every human being in reverence? Do I keep in touch with all, whether of worldly conditions higher or lower than my own, ever recognizing the common kinship, and holding myself always in that state of love to all, which really is the fulfilling of the law of human life?"

I think that places the whole thing where it belongs. Of course, it means that the work begins with ourselves, that we can do little toward the betterment of the world, until we put all of our efforts upon some other basis than that of self-pleasure or self-betterment in any form.

Men who have made great fortunes—we can all think of such—by methods that keep results within the legal law, but are yet far outside of the pale of the law of neighborly love sometimes give of their millions to buy good opinion and perhaps salvation. Such gifts are dazzling to the public, but so far as the giver is concerned his god of Self has but grown the stronger. The same holds good with all of us, even with smaller opportunities. If, then, the world is to be made better, if the giant evils which menace even the most prosperous nations are to be overcome, it has got to be done by individual betterment, through the worship of a god which does not dwell in the house of Self.

EMILY S. BOUTON.

Household Chats.

About Christmas Gifts.—The best Christmas gifts are, undoubtedly, such as are useful as well as ornamental, but with children and some older people there is a prejudice against such as not being "truly presents." As a young person recently said to her mamma, while instructing her as to the gifts that would be most desirable, "I don't want a new dress, or some new shoes, because I've got to have those, you know."

A pair, or two, of kid gloves; a box of handkerchiefs; some nice perfumery; a comb and brush in a pretty case; a supply of nice stationery or a gold pen, are all things that are very useful, and nice enough to come under the head of "truly presents." For the boys there are fewer things to choose from for presents, handkerchiefs, mufflers and neckties being the staple gifts for them, although there are some of the sterner sex who will accept, and use, perfumery and little fancy articles for their rooms, always excepting everything in the way of tidies and throws; they draw the line at these things so dear to the feminine heart.

For housekeepers, fine towels and table linen will never come amiss; floor rugs and draperies are also welcome gifts to those who are not abundantly supplied, and an easy chair, which will not only be a comfortable place to rest in, but will help to furnish the house, will be accepted with more than a simple "thank you," by the wife, from her husband.

For elderly people gifts which are for comfort are most appreciated. A silk, skull cap for an old gentleman whose head has been bereft of the Deity's covering, will be much more acceptable than a pair of fancy slippers, or an elaborately furnished dressing case, and a pair of woolen, bed-slippers are much more comforting to the person who finds her room cold when she rises in the morning, than any amount of fancy work would be.

Consult the taste and habits of those to whom you wish to make gifts, and do not give to any one such things as will be out of keeping with their usual surroundings. If you do, you will probably have the satisfaction of knowing that they will be carefully laid away as being too good for every day enjoyment, while some common, cheap little article would be worn and enjoyed as long as it lasted.

A silk apron, or a half-handkerchief of silk, to be worn about the neck, wou'd find favor with some elderly ladies. I nearly wrote any elderly lady, but I remembered in time to avoid such a mistake, that some elderly ladies dress as gaily as their grand-daughters.

For those who are troubled with cold feet a most comforting present, is a foot muff. This is a cushion filled with feathers, and is made with a flap, like an envelop, which reaches about half way across the cushion. This flap is wadded, and covered with any material you choose. The cushion is placed on the floor, in front of Grandmamma's favorite chair, and she can slip her feet under the flap, and keep them warm. To make these extra nice, the cushion may be covered, and the flap lined, with fur, or wool.

For the children there are so many things that the only difficulty is to choose. Mechanical toys seem to be the favorites this year, and from the train of cars that will run for twenty minutes, to the unbounded delight of the small boy, up to a magic lantern that will furnish entertainment to the whole family and the neighbors, or a Telegraphers outfit for the ambitious boy of the family, all can be obtained at very moderate prices.

And when all else fails, there are the most exquisite editions of the standard books, to own which will, truly, be a joy forever.

Fancy Work and House Decoration.

Head Rest.—Take strips of fancy braid of contrasting colors, pink and blue would be pretty, cut them the desired length for the pillow. Join the strips together with silver braid or a fancy stitch with maroon embroidery silk. Shirr the ends closely to fit the down bolster and tie about the shirring pink and blue ribbon bowed. Leave the ends of the braid long enough to form a puffy fringe and under the bows tack the ends of a long ribbon either pink or blue to suspend the cushion over the back of the chair.

Decorated Window Bench.—Have a bench made of pine or other wood to fit the window in which it is to be placed. Paint with enamel paint or stain it any desired color. Decorate with some pretty floral design. Make a cushion for the top of some fancy China silk. Tack ribbons underneath at one end and carry up and tie in a bow over one end of the bench.

Chair Drapery.—Take an oblong section of fancy India silk. Finish the lower and side edges with tassel fringe. Draw up the lower right corner to the top and shirr the section to produce the effect of a rosette, and allow the upper right corner to hang in a long drapery point. Shirr the upper left corner to form another rosette. Under the rosettes tack a ribbon matching the ground of the silk to fasten the drapery on the chair.

Christmas Suggestions.—I will send some directions for making Christmas presents. If any of the sisters who are painting little gifts for Christmas will use the common round cover of the tobacco or candy pail for painting scenery or flowers, they will find it an economical substitute for plaques. A very heavy rope gilded can be tacked around it for a frame, or a small rope braided and gilded can be used.

Small cabinet photos can be framed by taking a thin board about 8x10 inches and cutting a round or square hole for the photo. Glue the glass on, then the picture, and put on a pasteboard back; then spread glue or paint or any color over the outside and sprinkle thickly with rice, and fill in with sand, then gild. Some use common sandpaper gilded.—M. A. S.

Knitting and Crocheting.

Knitting abbreviations—k, knit; p, purl or seam; p 2 tog, purl two together; n, narrow; s and b, slip and bind; tto, throw thread over; b, bind; o, over; sl, slip; m, make.

Crocheting abbreviations—l, loop; s c, single crochet; d c, double crochet; ch st, chain stitch; cl ch st, close chain stch; d ch st, double chain stitch; p, picot; r c, ribbed crochet; c t st, crossed treble stitch; sh st, shell stitch; o sh st, open shell stitch; tr. treble; sh c, short crochet.

Wristlets.—Mrs. H. wanted to know a pretty way to knit her husbandd some wristlets. If the yarn is coarse, put 40 stitches on a needle. First knit 5 stitches—throw the thread over—k 1—t t o—k 5—slip 1—n—put the slip over the narrow—then k 5—t t o—k 1—t t o—then k 5. The edge, top and bottom will be scolloped. Hope you will like the pattern.—Mrs. McClaflin, Michigan.

Handle Holder.—To protect the hand from a coffee or tea-pot handle when it is too warm for comfort, this holder will be found of service. Three sizes of steel needles will be needed—Nos. 18, 15 and 12—with 1-4 oz. of single zephyr wool or Germantown, and a little purse silk. Cast on with the silk, using No. 18 needles, 36 stitches—k back and forth plain 6 rows. 7th row—Wool and No. 15 needles—k plain and narrow at every 6th stitch. 8th row—p to end of row. Repeat the 7th and 8th rows alternately twice. 13th row—Wool and No. 12 needles—k plain, increasing before every 6th stitch by an over or throwing the thread over (o). 14th row—p. 15th row Like the 13th row. 16th row—p. Now work in brioche stitch for 5 inches, thus, o, s, l, n, every row the same. This finishes half of the holder; now work the other end or half like the first; in reversion, of course, for you are leaving the middle of the holder for the end, and when you reach the 36th stitch work the silk rows with the No. 18 needles, changing them as in the directions, throughout. Cast off—sew up the sides 2 inches from each end—draw up the holder tightly 1 1-2 inches from each end, so it may fit nicely over the teapot handle, then work around the opening scallops of silk and tassel the ends of the holder with silk or wool, as preferred.—N. Y. Tribune.

Correspondence.

"Tommy" Tells "Inquirer" Some Interesting Facts About Sponges.—There has been much difference of opinion as to whether sponges belong to the animal or vegetable kingdom, but naturalists are now most generally of the opinion that they are a very low form of animal life. They consist of a gelatinous substance with a frame work of horny, elastic fibres growing from a broad base and are attached, like plants, to rocks.

If a sponge is cut into pieces by a knife, the parts will re-unite very quickly, if placed together again. The surface of a living sponge is covered with minute pores through which water is imbibed, carrying with it the water and the organic particles which keep the sponge alive.

Sponges are found in the seas of warm climates, but some small species live at great depths. One is found in the Gulf of Maori, at a depth of 185 fathoms, and the water must be pretty cold down that far.

Sponges are obtained from Candia, Syria, Barbary, the Levant, Bahama Islands and an inferior quality is found in the West Indies and coast of Florida.

There are a great many men employed in this business; one the Ottoman Sponge fishery employes between 4,000 and 5,000 men, and 600 boats.

Sponges are obtained by diving. The diver goes down and tears the sponges off from the rocks, places them under his arm and pulls the rope that gives the signal to his companions in the boat to pull him up. He leaves the sponges and goes down again. Sometime the sponges are torn from the rocks with sharp sticks, like a fork, but these do not sell so well.

The value of sponges collected in Greece and Turkey is from 90 to 100,000 pounds sterling annually, while from the Bahamas and other West Indian islands about 215,000 pounds, worth $85,000, are sent every year to Great Britain.

Sponges are used for many purposes—the doctors use them to remove blood and check hemorrhages, we use them in school to clean the blackboard and our slates (when we don't use our coat sleeves), the stable men use them to clean carriages and, what I think is the worst of all, our mothers use them to wash our faces with.

I did not know this all my own self, but I read about the sponges in the cyclopedia, and there is a great deal more about them there if anybody wants to read it.—Tommy.

Some More Ways of Earning Money—I had not intended to come again until after the holidays, and thus give the rest a chance, but this morning, while washing dishes, I bethought me how several years ago I lived where help was scarce, and took home plain sewing, taking for pay anything the farmer had to spare. One lady had raised several canary birds, and I took a nice singer and cage of her.

I once knew a woman who made head cheese and sausage and pressed beef, on shares, selling her share in the spring. She also pickled pig's feet and prepared pickled tongue, jellied calves' head, calves' foot jelly, aspic jelly, spiced beef, pressed chicken, etc., for anniversary and wedding dinners; sometimes she furnished material, sometimes she only did the work. In another section of country a young housekeeper used to make button holes in dresses and cloaks, and do feather stitching for the neighboring farmers' wives.

In another place, a young girl who could not be spared from home but three afternoons in a week, soon became famous for altering hosiery, knit underwear, coats and cloaks, as well as dresses, and soon became independent. She took young stock and all kinds of poultry and grain, such of the stock as she did not care to fatten, her father cared for, for half the increase.

A teacher added considerable to her income by crocheting lace for some of the mothers in the district, and teaching a class in knitting, crocheting, feather and outline stitch on Saturday afternoons.

Another teacher taught drawing, Kensington and Lustra painting. Still another, trying to educate a younger sister, found that many of the young people had been forced to leave school at an early age, and would be g'ad of a night school. She had a large class. The first three-quarters of an hour was practical, home arithmetic, the next three-quarters of an hour was given to instruction and practice in letter writing and composition, that of course, called penmanship and grammar into use. On Saturday evenings this was followed by a talk in history and geography, or a spelling match.

Many teachers are compelled to work their own way. In order to do this successfully, they usually get a third grade certificate and teach spring and fall terms, and attend a high school in winter. Soon they can secure a second grade, then by teaching all the year, and saving every possible cent, they can in a few years, attend a college. Such a course gives one a knowledge of the world and of travel that would fit them nicely to act as guide to a party of younger teachers in a trip to the Fair.

Any of these teachers could use their maps and charts, be very observing, and thus be ready to act as guides to a party of mothers; this would leave the mothers free from care of time tables, connections, etc., and could enjoy the trip better. If children are of the party, several mothers would find it to their advantage to share the expense of the teachers' trip. I know if I were young again I should plan for at least three trips, and if I could stay a month at a time I could not learn one-fiftieth part of what I should wish to know. After the children were given in charge of the nurses at the cliffs home, mothers and teachers would be free to spend all the time they wished in the Woman's building.

Some may say: "I have not helped the young men teachers." I do not intend to. Men have no business in a school room; they are not fitted by nature to have the care of young children; that is the place God gave to woman, and if men had let her alone in the various educational lines, they would not now need to whine because we are taking their work. I can truthfully say that in my eleven years of school work I never found a man in my way but once, and he taught the school $3 a month less than I would. I simply notified the county superintendent, and in ten days had letters from five different districts offering me higher wages than I had asked. I am aware that such cases are not common, and am very thankful that not only are the men having to leave the ranks, but superintendents, principals, and even college professors find themselves being crowded to the wall by wise, true and noble women. The younger teachers will see these points demonstrated grandly at the World's Fair.—Mollie.

Christmas Cheer and Christmas Amusements.

The Time for Unbounded Hospitality and Good Will To All.

If there is one day in the year above all others, when we should be at peace with all men—and all women—and give ourselves up to as perfect happiness as is possible in this life, forgetting all troubles and anxious cares, and forgiving with all our hearts any who may be responsible for them; a day when all unkind thoughts and feelings should be laid aside, never to be resurrected, it is to be hoped, and family feuds and unpleasant recollections forgotten; when all of the home circle are re-united, the prodigal who has caused so many a heart-ache, brought home, as well as those whom business interests have taken away, when all should meet in peace and love, it is on Christmas day.

In the West, this day takes, to a great extent, the place of the Thanksgiving day of the Eastern people.

The exchange of gifts and of the many bits of experience that have befallen each since the last reunion form a part of the pleasure of Christmas time, but the principal feature of the day is the dinner.

Preparations for this have been in progress for weeks in advance; the house-mother or the daughter who is to act as hostess exerts herself to the utmost to provide a menu that will suit the taste of each one of her guests.

It matters not whether the table is laid with the finest of damask and china, with solid silver, cut-glass and floral decorations that cost a fortune in themselves; the menu embracing every known delicacy that an unlimited purse can provide, or if it is a common dinner of the plainest of viands, there will always be an attempt at a little decoration, something a little extra will be done for Christmas.

A pretty way to decorate a table for a Christmas dinner is to have a center piece of linen embroidered with a vine of holly leaves and red berries. In place of the embroidery a wreath of the natural leaves and berries can be laid around the linen center-piece.

Sprays of holly and myrtle can be run from the corners of the center piece to the corners of the table. If the holly cannot be obtained, a beautiful effect may be produced by using scarlet ribbon twined with myrtle.

On the center piece is placed a low basket, filled with Christmas flowers. A common basket can be used for this by placing a wreath of evergreens around the edge and allowing it to droop

over the sides of the basket. The handle can be twisted with scarlet ribbon, fastened at the top in a large bow. At each plate should be placed a bunch of holly, tied with narrow scarlet ribbon. The dining-room can be decorated with ropes of evergreen and trailing myrtle, fastened in place with bows of ribbons. At a 6 o'clock dinner, a pretty effect can be produced by fastening wax tapers to these evergreen ropes, but unless this is done very carefully there is danger of the decorations taking fire.

To set the table, at the right of each plate should be laid two silver knives, three forks and a soup-spoon; a little in front of the plate, the water tumbler, a small salter and the napkin. If menu cards are used they should be placed on the plate. No plates are no longer placed in a pile before the host, but are laid at each place.

On the sideboard, or a side table, should be placed the finger-bowls, coffee cups and saucers, dessert service and small spoons. These spoons are now laid in flat dishes of china or glass, and the preference is given to serving them with each cup of coffee and each plate of dessert where they are needed. If they are placed upon the table, they should be at the right side of the plate. Small, ornamental dishes, containing olives, pickles and salted almonds are on the table during the dinner until the dessert is served, then the olives and pickles are removed.

Between each course the soiled plates and the accompanying knife and fork are removed and clean plates substituted. The course dishes should also be removed before another course is served.

MENU FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER.

Blue Points on the Half Shell.
Cream of Tomato Soup.
Baked White Fish, Stuffed.
Roast Goose. Baked Apples.
Mashed White Potatoes.
Browned Sweet Potatoes.
Braised Chicken. Peas. Sweet Corn.
Currant Jelly. Spiced Pickles.
Shrimp Salad. Cheese Fingers.
Plum Pudding.
Foaming Sauce.
Mince Pie.
Nuts. Fruits. Raisins. Ices.
Coffee. Whipped Cream.

Cream of Tomato Soup.—1 pt. can of tomatoes, 1 sprig of parsley, a blade of mace and a bay leaf stewed together for 15 minutes. Rub together 1 table spoonful of butter and 2 tablespoonfuls of flour, add to 1 qt. boiling milk and stir constantly until it thickens. When ready to use the soup, press the tomatoes through a seive and add 1 teaspoonful of sugar and 1-4 teaspoonful of soda, then the boiling milk. It must not go on the fire after the tomatoes and milk are mixed, or it will curdle.

Roast Goose.—Prepare the goose the same as a chicken. Fill with potato or onion stuffing, being careful not to fill it too full, as this dressing will always swell in cooking. Place it in a baking pan with 1 cupful of water and 2 teaspoonfuls of salt. Bake in a quick oven, allowing 25 minutes for each pound, basting it frequently. When the goose has been roasting 1 hour, cool the oven and finish the roast at a moderate heat. Goslings may be cooked in the same manner, allowing 15 minutes to each pound.

Potato Stuffing for Geese or Ducks.—Mix together 2 cupfuls, hot, mashed potatoes, 1 teaspoonful salt, 1 teaspoonful onion juice, 4 tablespoonfuls of cream; 1-4 teaspoonful black pepper; 1 tablespoonful butter and the yolks of 2 eggs. Beat until light.

Baked Apples.—Wipe tart apples perfectly clean and remove the core. Place them in a deep dish and put a bit of butter and a teaspoonful of sugar into each apple, pour 1-2 cupful of water over them, and bake in a moderate oven till thoroughly done, but not ready to fall to pieces. When served with roast goose, place the apples on a platter and serve one with each plate of the meat.

Braised Chicken.—Draw and prepare a chicken as for roasting. Truss it without filling and place in a baking pan over 1-2 of a small carrot, and 1 onion, chopped fine, 4 cloves, 1 sprig of parsley and a little salt and pepper. To this add 1 pt. of rich meat stock, cover closely and bake in a quick oven for 1 1-2 hours. Then dish the fowl and place it where it will keep hot. Put 1 tablespoonful of butter in a frying pan, let it brown and rub smooth in it, 1 tablespoonful of flour add to this the liquor in which the chicken was braised and then twelve mushrooms, chopped fine. Stir this continually until it boils and if you use wine, add one gill of sherry and pour the sauce around the chicken.

English Plum Pudding.—This pudding is improved by being made two weeks at least, before being used, but it is very good at any time. Mix thoroughly 3-4 lb. beef suet, chopped fine; 1 lb. stale bread crumbs; 1 lb. sugar; 1 lb. raisins, stoned and floured; 1 lb. English currants, washed, dried and floured; 1-4 lb. citron, thinly sliced; 1 grated nutmeg; 1tablespoonful each of cinnamon and mace; 1 teaspoonful of salt; the juice of an orange and a lemon; 1 teacupful of milk and 8 well-beaten used. This time is for the large moulds; but it may be cooked in smaller moulds for a small family. Steam 5 hours. Keep in a dry, cold place until wanted, then steam 1 1-4 hours the day it is used. This time is for the large moulds if in smaller ones, less time will be required to cook it. By having several of these on hand, one can provide an elegant desert at very short notice.

Pudding Sauce.—Beat to a cream 1 teacupful of butter and stir in, gradually, 2 teacupfuls of powdered sugar; add the juice of a lemon and beat till it becomes a light froth. Set the bowl into a basin of hot water and stir it till it is creamy, which will be in one or two minutes. Pour into a bowl, grate a little nutmeg over the top and serve very hot.

After finishing the dinner, which will, of course, be varied to suit the taste and the means of each family, there will be a decided inclination on the part of all to rest awhile. The hostess will be happy that everything "went off so well," and that the "unexpected" failed to happen to spoil the feast; the guests will be in that satisfied frame of mind with themselves and all of the rest of the world, that follows a good dinner, and all will be content to sit around the fire and indulge in reminiscences of by-gone Christmas days, and in tender recollection of those who have met with them before, but who are to-day among those who have been called to take a part in the service of thanksgiving nearer the throne of Him whose birthday we celebrate.

When it is time for the lamps to be lighted, all are ready for the amusements provided by the younger members of the family, with which to make the closing hours of the holiday the brightest. Games of all kinds are admissible, and all, both old and young, are expected to participate in them. Age is forgotten, and dignity is thrown to the winds for the time being. Dignified papa submits to be blindfolded and "turned three times around" before, in the ever popular game of Blindman's Buff, he starts in energetic pursuit of the others, some of whom show wonderful agility, when their age is considered, in avoiding him, and grandmamma redeems the forfeits she has lost, with a promptness and grace that may well be imitated by her grand children.

Blindman's Buff, Proverbs, Hunt the Handkerchief, and such oldfashioned games seem to be the favorites at this time, while for the more quiet ones there is "Making a Will," "The Newspaper," "Consequences," "1, 2, 3," "Buzz," etc., etc.

Music, both vocal and instrumental, is always a welcome part of any entertainment, and, in addition to the old songs, which will be sung by all present, a very pleasing arrangement would be to have some of the best singers, dressed in old-fashioned English or Dutch costumes, sing some Christmas carols. If a stage with a window at the back of it could be constructed, the singers should group themselves under the window to sing, while, by the light of tapers held by them, children are seen at the window, listening to them. When the carols are finished, the window could be opened, and flowers, fruit or bon-bons showered upon the singers.

Tableaux can also be made a very entertaining part of the evening's programme. Besides the regulation tableaux copied from engravings, a series of representations of scenes in the life of any historical personage may be arranged.

The hero of this Columbian year—Christopher Columbus, would afford an appropriate subject for such. Among the most effective of these would be Columbus as a boy; Columbus at the gate of La Rabida; His first interview with Queen Isabella; Columbus listening from his ship to the song of the land birds, whose music could be imitated by the musical instruments; Columbus and his men taking possession of the New World, and their first sight of the Indians; his narration to the Spanish sovereigns at Santa Fe. In this scene a Te Deum could be sung by an invisible choir, with a very dramatic effect. The series could close with Columbus in chains and his death. All information necessary to produce these could be obtained from any of the histories, or lives of Columbus, with which the country is now flooded.

Guitars, mandolins, and all stringed instruments of the Latin races and South country people, should be used in connection with these representations.

This subject is mentioned only as being very appropriate for the present time, but, as said above, the life of any celebrated person would furnish material for similar tableaux.

Scenes from the public or private career of some individual in the company would, if arranged so as to avoid all possibility of offense, create much amusement, and now, when the games are finished, the parting song sung, and the guests take their departure with the feeling that this has indeed been a Merry Cristmas, The Blade offers to each and every one the best of Christmas greetings, and the hope that the true spirit of the Christmas tide may abide in their hearts throughout the coming year.

SOPHIE F. WALDRON.

Inquiries.

Will some one tell me how to roast wild duck?—Pansy.

Will Jean Hunt inform me if a sky blue, all wool dress, can be colored navy blue, and if so, what kind of dye must I use? If I cannot, then tell me what I can color it, and what kind of dye to use, and how much.—Inexperience.

Can any one tell me of a remedy that will entirely eradicate inflammatory rheumatism from the system?—An Old Subscriber.

Will some one please tell me what to do for my fingers? They all crack open and are so very sore.—Ella M. Smaltz.

I have a blue flannel dress, it is made with a tight waist and gored skirt; the skirt is sewed on the waist, and it is too short waisted; I want to make it over with velvet into a basque; can it be done, and if so, will Jean Hunt, or some one else, please tell me how to make it?—Emma Annoe.

Will some one tell me how to cure rag nails? They are very painful.—Pansy.

Please, Miss Bouton, will you make us a holiday present of a fair-sized portrait of yourself on this page? It would be treasured in many a home.—Mollie.

Can any one give the name of the author of the poem "She Kissed Me," published in The Blade a few weeks ago?—N.

Answers to Inquiries.

Maud L. Paden—If the children are strangers in the place, you should invite them to your party, but if they have given entertainments and omitted you from the guests, you might reasonably expect that they did not care for your company, and would not accept an invitation from you.—Ed.

Myrta—You can order what you want from any ladies' furnishing store.—Ed.

In answer to Mrs. H. B. as to what will cure a sore or raw tongue, make a strong cup of green tea; put 10 cents' worth of tannin (get it at drug store) in the tea and sweeten with a tablespoonful of honey. Gargle the mouth several times a day, and swallow a little. This remedy has cured the worst cases of ulcerated sore mouth and throat, after all else failed.

Sunshine—A dressing case, silk umbrella, muffler, handkerchiefs, gloves, a framed engraving, or a book (either of which you could have the benefit of when you keep house), or, if your fiance smokes, a nice smoking set would be suitable presents for Christmas.—Ed.

Nellies—Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday are the first and last days of Lent. Next year the first named, comes February 15, 1893, and Easter Sunday is April 2 following.—Ed.

Mrs. Nettie O.—Thanks for your kind wishes and the flowers you sent.—Ed.

For chapped and bleeding hands, in answer to R. Gough—8 drachms of gum camphor; 3 drachms of beeswax; 3 drachms of spermaceti; 2 ozs. of olive oil. Melt altogether, and put in a saucer or shallow dish, will make the hands well and soft, and cure chaps. Good for the face also.—Texas.

For "Pansy"—Cure for Frosted Feet. 1 pt. alcohol; 1-2 oz. gum camphor; 1-2 oz. oil origanum; 1-2 oz. pulv. cloves. Mix. Bathe frosted part thoroughly and frequently. Will cure the worst cases of frost bite, and is also excellent for headache.—G. B. Good.

If "R. Gough" will take 5 qts. of soft water; into it drop 1 oz. carbonate of ammonia and 24 ozs. pure, white castile soap scraped fine, then boil till the soap is dissolved; stir till it is cold, then wash his hands with it every evening a few times, he will find it a remedy for chapped hands. There is nothing better for cleaning colors or other greasy articles of clothing. It will not harm any article that water may be used for. The above will make about 12 lbs. of compound.—Friend.

—Dyspepsia's victims find prompt and permanent relief in Hood's Sarsaparilla, which tones the stomach and creates an appetite.

The Honeymoon Over.

"I had a most delightful dream," said Mrs. Gilley at the breakfast table.

"What was it?" asked her husband.

"I dreamed that I was a widow and about to be married to a very rich man."—Truth.

Time for Running.

"What are you running for?" yelled one messenger boy to another.

"I'm off duty now," was the satisfactory reply.—Life.

Every Man Should Read This.

If any young, old or middle-aged man suffering from nervous debility, weakness, lack of vigor from errors or excesses will enclose stamp to me I will send him the prescription of a genuine certain cure free of cost. No humbug, no deception. Address Charles Gane, Marshall, Mich.

Christmas Charity.

Children whose lives are blessed with love untold,
Whose gifts are greater than your arms can hold.
Think of the child who stands
To-day with empty hands!
Go fill them up, and you will also fill
Their empty hearts that lie so cold and still.
And bright, longing eyes with grateful, glad surprise.
May all who have, at this blest season seek
His precious little ones, the poor and weak.
In joyful sweet accord, thus lending to the Lord.

What the Blade's Young Folks Would Do With a Thousand Dollars.

Evidently the boys and girls who read The Blade have not yet had time to decide this question, as so few have responded to the inquiry given at the head of this column some weeks ago. It certainly is hard work to decide what one would do with so much money, and it is very nice that so many of the children who have written to The Blade show an appreciation of the value of an education as their letters indicate. From Holt Mo., we receive this:

I am a little girl 10 years old. I never went to school a day in my life. Mamma teaches me at home. If I had a thousand dollars I would use it to go to school, and take music lessons, and I would give part of it to papa and mamma and sister Mabel.—Dora Kinzer, Holt, Mo.

A Nebraska girl sends this:

My name is Helen Odessa Wilcox. I am nearly 12 years old. If I had $1,000 I would take $500 and go to the World's Great Fair, and the rest I would take to school myself with. Then I could teach or do something to support myself when I get older.

I am a little girl 11 years old. If I had a thousand dollars I don't know hardly what I would do with it, but I believe I would be willing to give it all if Harrison could be elected, but as I could not do that I would invest it in real estate till I am 21 years old, then I would know more about it than I do now.—Hattie Labrant, Sprague, Mo.

The real estate will take the money this year, Hattie. Winona, O., has an incipient missionary in Homer.

If I had a thousand dollars I think it would do the most good to send it to India, to support the missionaries while they are teaching the heathen to be Christians.—Homer J. Coppock, 11 years old.

This youth from Alabama appears to have a variety of ways in which to invest his money, but we hope that by the time he has it to invest, he will have decided to omit the Bar-room.

If I had a thousand dollars to spend I would invest it in land or horses, or a bar-room, or in cattle, or in some big stock in a store, or some machinery that would pay me well, if I could. If not, I would put it in some bank or in some merchant's hands. If I did not have the chance to do that, I would put it in hogs or sheep.—John L. Garrett.

Here comes a very generous little miss from Rice Lake, Wis.:

I am 12 years old. If I had a thousand dollars I would give half of it to the poor, and the rest I would divide among my friends. I would not spend it in foolishness.—Sadie Haines.

And another from Thompson, Nebraska: I want to tell what I would do with a thousand dollars if I had that much. First, I would give mamma $100 to help furnish our new house, and papa $100. I would buy me some clothes and a side-saddle. I would keep about $50 for spending money and give the rest to the poor.—Bessie Wheelock, 11 years old.

From Humboldt, South Dakota: If I had $1,000 I would go to college, and then teach school and get money to build a nice house.—Elsie O. Royce.

If I had $1,000 I would build a small, comfortable house, and a small, comfortable barn, and a drilled well, with windmill to pump the water out.—Myra A. Royce.

Myra has evidently learned how hard it is to pump water.

My brother and I think if we had $1,000 we would put it in a farm. I am 9 and he is 6.—Willie Fuller, Prynne Fuller, Bristol, Iowa.

We think Percy Hampton, of Perrysburg, O., must be very popular among "the boys," to judge by his letter, and for correct spelling, writing and the neatness of the letter, he stands No. 1 among all of the letters received from the children. Supposing you all try, the next time you write, to do better in these respects.

I want to be an engineer, and if I had money, I would buy a little engine I saw advertised in the paper. It would run half an hour on a little track. I would learn all I could with that; then when I grow up I would have a big engine to run. I would like a horse and buggy, and would take the boys riding every day, and when winter comes would have a big sled and get it full of boys and take them a good ride. I would save most of the money till I get big.—Percy Hampton, Perrysburg, Ohio.

I am a little girl, 11 years old, and after carefully thinking the question over as to what I would do with a thousand dollars to spend as I please, I answer that I would spend it in educating and preparing myself for a school-teacher.—Susie E. Thomas, Burdette, South Dakota.

I would put my thousand dollars in a lot in a new town, or invest it in a store or a farm of good land, or I would invest in a drove of cattle or a small drove of horses, or something that would be very valuable some time, and save my money, whatever else I done.—Willie G. Garrett.

George Van Hasen, 9 years old, would invest his money in horses and a barn.

If I had $1,000 to spend, as I wish, I would buy some land. By so doing I would increase my money. Then I would build me a neat little house and barn.—Maud N. Eckert, Holstein, O.

If I had a thousand dollars I would buy a nice piano and a horse and buggy.—Eva Nancy, 8 years old, San Diego, Cal.

It almost frightens me to think of ever having that much, all my own, but I have thought it all over, and if I ever have a thousand dollars to spend I would go to school and take music and painting lessons and—and— Well, there is so much that I would like to do, and so many friends I would want to give presents that I don't think that would be half enough. I think the more we have the more we want, don't you?—Blanche Thompson.

There are very many who will agree with Blanche. And now, children, the editor of the Young Folks asks that you will, each one of you, make a special effort to learn how to spell correctly, write plainly and to be very careful about the general appearance of your work, so that when a prize is offered for the best written letter, you may all gain one. Do you not think that you can do this for her, in return for the efforts she makes every week to make the "Young Folks'" column interesting for you?

A RACE WITH AN AVALANCHE.

BY FANNY HYDE MERRILL.

Over a little town in the heart of the Rocky mountains floated a heavy cloud. A young girl stood by the window of one of the pretty homes, and watched anxiously the sky above. As she looked, her brother stepped up behind her. "Never mind, Kate," he said, "we'll have a good Christmas, if it does snow."

Kate frowned. "What is the use of any more snow? It is four feet deep on the ground now, and all the roads are blocked. We can't get any Christmas mail; the sugar in town is all gone; only one cow to give milk for the children, not an egg to be had; we can't even bake a cake."

And just then white flakes came floating through the air. Kate's exclamation was a doleful "There it comes! It's too bad!"

News of the Week.

The Blade is a newspaper for free American citizens, and under the above head, aims to give, first, those events which are the history and progress of the world for the week—those which every intelligent man needs to know and knows to; second, all important political events; and, lastly, the leading minor occurrences that possess interest to every educated and thinking reader.

DEFYING THE TREATY.

A TRIP TO GEORGIAN BAY.

The Beginning of Great Britain's Plot to Keep Canada from Sliding Into the Union—Navy Department Alarmed.

Forty-eight hours after war has been declared upon the United States by England, Chicago, Cleveland and Detroit, or any three lake cities could be reduced to ashes. With wide-open eyes the United States has been letting England secure almost complete control of our Northern border, and get the great marts of inter-lake commerce at the mercy of the cross of St. George.

Three swift armored vessels, cruisers of the most modern and destructive type, are at this moment lying in Georgian Bay—north of Lake Huron. They are manned by British sailors, officered by the flower of the British navy, and they bear the British flag.

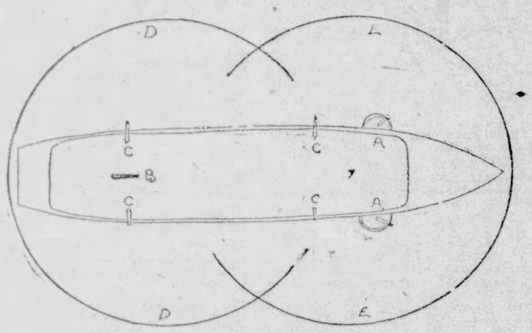
They were seen last Monday by a representative of The Toledo Blade, sent expressly to look up this beginning of a formidable navy by the British government, contrary to the treaty of 1817.

These vessels are the Petrel, the Constance and the Curlew. Two of them, the Constance and the Petrel, good old names, were built at Polsons, yard at Owen Sound; the third, the Curlew, was launched at Hamilton, Ontario. The Petrel is the newest, and smells of paint yet, having been launched at Polson's only two weeks last Saturday, December 10.

They are not large, as large lake vessels run, but they are no less marine monsters. Each of them has 350 tons displacement.

All the machinery is under water. They have ram bows, curved steel protective decks, and a judicious arrangement of the coal bunkers so that the machinery is doubly protected. All the steering gear is below the decks.

Forward the arrangement is similar to that of whalebacks. A curved steel deck makes it easy to plunge into a sea and



ARMAMENT PLAN OF THE PETREL.

A—Maxim-Nordenfeldt guns in Sponsons.
B—Stern gun (6-inch) on pivot.
CC, C—Broadside of rapid firing Hotchkiss guns.
D—Arc of fire Sponson guns.
E—Arc of fire pivot guns.

tear nothing. The bluff bow would only wash over the deck and make it all the cleaner.

They are each 150 feet long, and 25 feet beam, with a draft of less than ten feet, and made small, to run through the smallest canal in the lake system. And the armament is the most complete known in modern naval warfare.

Forward two guns are so placed in sponsons as to cover an arc of fire from a point dead ahead to one astern. There is a stern gun in an armored turret, so fixed as to sweep an arc half way around the cruiser, and intersect each arc of the forward guns. These three pieces are breech-loading Maxim-Nordenfeldt rifles, 14-pounders, capable of piercing four inches of solid steel, and can throw a shot with execution 6,000 yards. Besides these deadly guns are four Hotchkiss rapid-firing guns, capable of throwing 22 shots a minute, each of which will pierce 1½ inches of steel easily.

These vessels have an assumed speed of 14 knots an hour, though 12 or 13 knots is about their average gait. These three cruisers are the first of the kind ever built on the lakes. They are not revenue cutters. They receive orders direct from the British admiralty office in London, and are controlled by the imperial government, and the Canadian officers have nothing whatever to do with them.

Lieutenant Commander McGregor and a crew of 50 men have charge of the three vessels now, though the crew is connected with the Constance alone, this being the only one of the three cruisers in commission. The Curlew and the Petrel will be in commission and fully manned before February 1.

The treaty of 1817 between Great Britain and the United States stipulated that one cruiser or man-of-war might be maintained by each government on the great lakes, there were also stipulations providing that each government might maintain revenue cutters. The United States has kept the old hulk, the Michigan, in commission. But the representative of The Blade never saw a revenue cutter like unto these new British cruisers.

Three times has Secretary of State John W. Foster called upon Sir Julian Pauncefote for an explanation of this seeming defiance of the treaty between the United States and Great Britain. Three times has Sir Julian replied that the vessels were in no way a nullification of treaty stipulations.

The British minister maintained that the vessels are only revenue cutters. That is all. The fact about the building of the Constance and all diplomatic discussion following has been in part only published. No satisfaction can be obtained from the British. So long as they maintain that these vessels are revenue cutters only, nothing can be done.

The government of the United States may, however, follow her example, and build "revenue cutter" cruisers like the Constance.

Why has England so suddenly awakened to the fact that "revenue cutters" were necessary? Why has Canada gone on for years without revenue cutters, and now the Imperial government must put such an armament on the lakes?

The answer is a history of British possessions and policy. In war position is everything. Canada has been slowly sliding into the United States. The American flag is cheered almost as often as the British banner. The great mass meetings of the past few months in favor of annexation show how the mass of the Canadian people feel about it. They will come into the Union in time.

England knows this. She never will submit quietly.

To be forewarned is to be forearmed. In ten days 47 British ships could be put up the St. Lawrence and into Lake Ontario.

The smallest canal in the Canadian system is the Cornwall on the St. Lawrence. A 186-foot vessel can get through, or a 187-foot cruiser, if placed diagonally. The vessel could have a draft of nine feet. By using pontoons a much larger vessel may be locked into the stream above. But there are 47 vessels in the British navy that can pass now.

That is not all.

Work is now progressing on the canal. When the construction is finished it will be able to take through a 220-foot vessel, or any of what are known as the Sharpshooters. That work will be completed by the close of 1893, possibly by August 1, next.

Estimates made no later than last Thursday, December 8, place the number of war ships that Great Britain can put into Lake Ontario at 93. Three Sharpshooters are 225 feet long. They are first-class torpedo gun boat cruisers. Each has five torpedo tubes, one in the bow and two on each beam. Their speed is rated at 21 knots an hour, though the usual rate is 19. The 21 rate shakes them up too much. Of this fleet there are the Sharpshooter, Sandfly, Spanker, Scout, Salamander, and others not so familiar to marine readers. Their guns are 4 7-10 inch and will throw a projectile seven miles.

This fleet could demolish every lake town in a week. Cities would go up in smoke.

And England does not wait.

The optimist cries that we would destroy the Welland canal and stop the vessels. But when? Not until war had been declared. The dark spot on the cloud, the first intimation that Canada will slide into the Union and the Sharpshooter fleet will be moved into Lake Ontario.

Then you have forgotten those "revenue cutters," spoken of earlier. They are built for this very purpose. Let one hand be raised to block the Welland canal before war is declared, and the Petrel, the Constance and the Curlew will be before Chicago.

"Raise a hand against the Welland and Chicago will be in ashes!" will be the war-cry of Great Britain.

This is only a part of England's gigantic globe-girdling plan. Canada is the connecting link between Great Britain and the Orient. Canada will give the Intercolonial railroad to the Canadian Pacific this winter. The former line running from Halifax to Quebec, has cost Canada $90,000,000. By it the Canadian Pacific will have a complete line from Halifax to Vancouver. At each end England has magnificent naval and military stations. A line of steamers from Vancouver to Japan has been yearly subsidized in the sum of $500,000. There is now to be a new line from Halifax to Liverpool subsidized to the amount of half a million yearly.

They talk these things openly in Canada. They say it is for the British empire's military route around the world. By it Russia can be attacked on the Pacific shore in almost the same time it would take to get a fleet into the Black Sea.

England maintains a great naval station at Exquimaux near Vancouver simply to always be in reach of Russia and to protect her own seal poachers in their Alaskan depredations.

The Canadian Pacific has cost Canada close to $200,000,000 already. The Conservative government has been the easy and willing tool of the Imperial government.

History is being made fast these days. Powerless to stop it the United States has seen Great Britain put a band on this continent which the Lion will use some day as a whip of steel.

But she can protect herself now.

Canadian people are tired of this constant drain to keep up the C. P. road. They have almost reached the revolutionary stage.

It is then to keep her own greatest American possession from slipping from beneath the cross of St. George that Great Britain has so lately built these three swift armored cruisers and set them afloat in defiance of the treaty of 1817.

What has the United States to cope with these so-called revenue cutters? Nothing but the old hulk of a Michigan; a man of war without a particle of use on land or sea. The Michigan is armed with three 3-inch breech loading rifles and two Gatlings. Then there are four brass 20-pounders, cut down from muzzle loaders and are said to be accurate with solid shot for about a mile. Then there are the three revenue cutters, the Perry, the Johnson and the Fessenden. If the Michigan is a picture of the past, a sort of reminiscence of an age too antique to recall. Their machinery is all above the water line. And their armament! The Perry has two 3-inch breech loading rifles, two 20-pounder Dalghrens and one 30-pounder Parrott which they wouldn't dare fire if they could. The Johnson has two 20-pounder Dalghrens and one 30-pounder Parrott.

Secretary of the Navy Tracy has been looking at these loop-holes in our defensive system through the eyes of trained subordinates.

Capt. Joseph M. Miller, commander of the training ship Vermont, now in the Brooklyn navy yard, was sent West only a few weeks ago. He looked over the situation carefully. He embodied in that report many facts which the Blade representative has given in this article. Robert W. Steele, on special duty connected with the bureau of construction of the navy department, also came West, and made an examination of the vessels of the lakes.

Two facts were plain:

No vessel, regular lake carrier, had a deck which would hold up a battery of five-ton guns.

The faulty construction of lake marine vessels of the larger class, with machinery all above the water line, makes it impossible to turn them into armored cruisers.

But the United States will have a revenue cutter to equal the Petrel and her class. Nor will it be so small as these British admiralty boats.

The bill providing for it has passed the Senate of the United States. It is for the House of Representatives to say whether the lake cities shall be without defense or not.

The new "revenue cutter," and of course that is what it will be called, though it is no more a revenue cutter than the Petrel, Curlew and Constance are, now awaits the action of Congress.

The plans for it provide the following vessel:

One hundred and ninety feet long, 28 feet beam, 12 feet draft.

Sixteen knots maintained sea speed.

Triple expansion engines.

To carry 75 men.

Its armament to be:

One 4-inch breech-loading rapid-firing rifled piece on pivot in forecastle.

Four 6-pounders, Hotchkiss rapid-firing guns in broadside.

Two 1-pounders, Hotchkiss rapid firing guns in stern.

This will make a cruiser which will be able to kill the fleet now in Georgian bay, to protect Lake Michigan easily and readily.

What will then be done for the protection of the lower lakes?

That story will be told in another article. T. D. B.

BRIEDENTHAL READS THE LAW.

Democrats Must Play Fair or There Will be Trouble.

Topeka, Kansas, Dec. 17.—John Briedenthal, chairman of the People's state central committee, and the leading Populist candidate for United States Senator, does not credit the report that a number of Democrats and ex-Democrats, holding seats in the legislature by Populist votes, will decline to participate in the Populist caucus, or that they will vote for the caucus nominee if he happens to be a Populist.

"Every man, Democrat or Populist, nominated by a Populist convention for the legislature," said Mr. Briedenthal, "pledged himself to caucus with the Populists for United States Senator, and to vote for the caucus nominee if he happens to be a Populist, whoever he might be. I do not think any man can afford to violate this pledge. If a single fusion Democrat remains out of our caucus, no Democratic candidate will receive a single vote in the caucus. The first business of the caucus will be to find whether every man who takes part in it will vote for the nominee, be he Populist or Democrat. Democratic candidates must go into that caucus on the same basis as Populists. If, after the caucus Democrats attempt to put the legislature into a deadlock, in an endeavor to force a Democrat on the Populists after the caucus has decided in favor of a Populist, Populist members will decline to vote for Senator, and thus prevent an election during the coming session.

"In that event, Senator Perkins will hold over, and we would prefer that he would rather than submit to bulldozing tactics such as have been proposed. If a Democrat gets the Populist nomination, he will surely be elected, but if a Populist gets the nomination, the Democrats must help to elect him or there will be no election."

REPUBLICANS WILL CONTROL IT.

No Devilment Can be Enacted by Minnesota's Legislature.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 14.—It has been the general opinion in political circles that the Democrats and the Alliance men would unite, as two years ago, and control the state senate. Senator Ignatius Donnelly, the leader of the combination two years ago, has, however, written a letter to Senator Day announcing his intention of permitting the Republicans to organize the body.

The same course will be followed by Senators Hompe and Dedon, giving the Republicans 28 of 54 members of the senate. The house also has a Republican majority. The matter is of the utmost importance, as the state is to be redistricted this winter and the Republicans have it in their power to prevent a legislative gerrymander.

"MOTHERS' FRIEND"

MAKES CHILD BIRTH EASY,

Colvin, La., Dec. 2, 1886.—My wife used MOTHER'S FRIEND before her third confinement, and says she would not be without it for hundreds of dollars.
DOCK MILLS.

Sent by express on receipt of price, $1.50 per bottle. Book "To Mothers" mailed free.
BRADFIELD REGULATOR CO.,
FOR SALE BY ALL DRUGGISTS. ATLANTA, GA.

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For 30 Days. To introduce our CRAYON PORTRAITS we make this Special Offer: Send us a Cabinet Picture, Photograph or any picture of yourself or any member of your family, living or dead, and we will make you a CRAYON PORTRAIT, FREE OF CHARGE, provided you exhibit it to your friends as a sample of our work and use your influence in securing us future orders. Place name and address on back of picture and it will be returned in perfect order. We make any change in picture you wish not interfering with likeness. Refer to any bank in Chicago. Address THE CRESCENT CRAYON CO., Opposite New German Theatre, CHICAGO, ILL. P.S.—We will forfeit $100 to any one sending us photo and not receiving crayon picture FREE as per this offer. This offer is bonafide.

JAMES G. BLAINE DYING

A GREAT STATESMAN PASSING

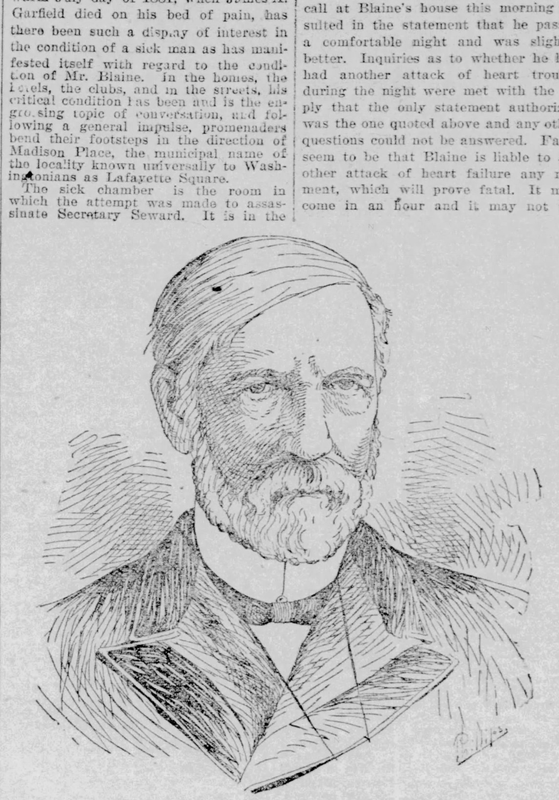
From Scenes of Earth to the Beyond—There is No Hope—Some Interesting Facts in His Long Career.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Not since the warm July day of 1881, when James A. Garfield died on his bed of pain, has there been such a display of interest in the condition of a sick man as has manifested itself with regard to the condition of Mr. Blaine. In the homes, the hotels, the clubs, and in the streets, his critical condition has been and is the engrossing topic of conversation, and following a general impulse, promenaders bend their footsteps in the direction of Madison Place, the municipal name of the locality known universally to Washingtonians as Lafayette Square.

The sick chamber is the room in which the attempt was made to assassinate Secretary Seward. It is in the third story, and the windows looking south command a view of the treasury, the White House, the Washington monument and the winding Potomac beyond. The one window of the room that looks west commands a view of the park, in the corner of which, within 100 feet of the Blaine house, stands the beautiful statue by Faiguerre and Mercier of Gen. Lafayette, erected by the United States government in memory of the gallant Frenchman who devoted himself to our cause in the war of the revolution.

From Mr. Blaine's window can be seen also the Corcoran mansion, recently fitted up by Senator Brice, the Bostonian styled house of John Hay, historic old St. John's church, and other buildings of romantic and historic interest. Next to the Blaine house, which stands close to the brick sidewalk, is the aristocratic old mansion of Senator Don Cameron, where there are evidences of sorrow for the distinguished neighbor and relative.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 20.—Mr. Blaine has held for 24 hours the improvement which was noted in his condition yesterday morning. He rested well during the night, entered on the morning refreshed, and consequently is better prepared to a very slight degree to resist the ravages of the disease which has brought him face to face with death. To this extent there is encouragement for the family and the hosts of friends of the stricken statesman. The malady is organic, however, and in the nature of things must grow worse with time.



JAMES G. BLAINE AS HE IS TO-DAY.

The callers at the house this morning were informed by the man at the door that "Mr. Blaine had passed a very comfortable night, and was resting easily this morning."

Atmospheric Conditions.

A raw, cold rain set in during the night, and in the early morning changed to snow and slush. It was thought possible that, even with the extreme precautions that are taken to protect the invalid, these bad atmospheric conditions might be reflected in Mr. Blaine's condition. Fortunately, however, these fears expressed by friends of Mr. Blaine were found on a visit to the house to be baseless, and subsequently Dr. Johnston said that the weather does not affect Mr. Blaine at all.

Dr. Johnston visited Mr. Blaine about 9 o'clock and remained a short time. At 10 o'clock he summarized the condition of Mr. Blaine by saying: "Mr. Blaine is as well as he was yesterday morning and seems refreshed after a good night's rest." He added, in answer to a question, that Mr. Blaine had no trouble about sleeping. He declined to go into any statement with reference to the disease but said that it was not from any desire to conceal the condition of Mr. Blaine, but because of the personal feelings of the family.

No Hemorrhage.

The doctor again stated that there was no basis whatever for the report that Mr. Blaine had been seized with a hemorrhage, and could not account for such a report. He said there had been no attempt to conceal anything from the public as to the real condition of Mr. Blaine. There will be no consultations held at the house, but Dr. Johnson and Dr. Hyatt, who is a specialist in throat and lung troubles, will call together once or twice during the day, as they have done heretofore.

At 10:30 o'clock a coupe drove up to the door and Mr. Damrosch, Mr. Blaine's son-in-law, alighted. His presence makes complete the personal household of Mr. Blaine.

STANDING AT THE BRINK.

Blaine is Liable to Die at Any Moment.

Washington, Dec. 20.—(Special.)—A call at Blaine's house this morning resulted in the statement that he passed a comfortable night and was slightly better. Inquiries as to whether he had had another attack of heart trouble during the night were met with the reply that the only statement authorized was the one quoted above and any other questions could not be answered. Facts seem to be that Blaine is liable to another attack of heart failure any moment, which will prove fatal. It may come in an hour and it may not for days. His friends now generally admit that they have no hope for anything more than temporary relief and fear that death may come any hour.

SOME DRAMATIC EPISODES.

How Mr. Blaine Treated the Mulligan Letters.

Washington, Dec. 19.—(Special.)—Mr. Blaine's serious and perhaps fatal illness, coupled with the mention of the name of John Randolph Tucker, of Virginia, for a Cabinet position, calls to the minds of those who were in Washington during Mr. Blaine's term in Congress an interesting scene between these two gentlemen in the House. It grew out of a decision said to have been made by Tucker when attorney general of the state of Virginia, in which he is said, in the days just preceding the war to have held that postmasters had a right to throw the New York Tribune out of the mails and refuse to deliver it at their postoffices, on the ground that it was an incendiary document.

Mr. Tucker, after the war, was elected a member of Congress, and in a discussion in the House, in which he was taking a prominent part, Mr. Blaine called attention to this decision and the result was one of those striking and dramatic scenes in which Mr. Blaine so often figured while a member of that body. An old official at the House, who has been about the capital for a quarter of a century, recalled the incident a day or two ago, as he saw Mr. Tucker walk through the hall of the House and look fondly at the seat which he occupied while a member of that body.

Remarkable Scene.

"It was a very interesting and remarkable scene," said he, "and one which is made doubly interesting now by the fact that Mr. Tucker is spoken of as a prospective attorney general of the United States. Whether he will hold that Republican newspapers can be thrown out of the mails now, if he becomes attorney general, is an interesting question, I do not suppose that he would, but it is at least a matter of interest, both in view of the prospect that he may become attorney general, and in view of the conditions of Mr. Blaine, whose career is apparently nearing an end.

"Those who are familiar with Mr. Blaine's history in Congress, those dramatic situations in his life and political career are interesting recollections. One feature of Mr. Blaine's Congressional career, which has always found for him a warm spot in the hearts of the Southern people, was his unwillingness to permit the South to be made subject to military control after the war.

Notwithstanding Mr. Blaine's kindly feeling toward the South in a general way, he did not hesitate to speak plainly when occasion offered, and one of these occasions was in 1876, when a general amnesty bill was brought forward removing the political disabilities of those who had participated in the rebellion.

Excepted Jeff Davis.

Mr. Blaine moved to amend by making an exception of Jefferson Davis, and supported the proposition in an impassioned speech. After asserting the great magnanimity of the government, and pointing out how far amnesty had already been carried, he defined the ground of his proposed exception. The reason, was, not that Jefferson Davis was the chief of the Confederacy, but that, as Mr. Blaine affirmed, he was the author, "knowingly, deliberately, guiltily and willfully of the gigantic murders and crimes of Andersonville. In fiery words Mr. Blaine proceeded to declare that no military atrocities in history had exceeded those for which Davis was thus responsible. His outburst naturally produced deep excitement in the House and throughout the country. If Mr. Blaine's object as a political leader was to arouse partisan feeling and activity preparatory to the Presidential struggle, he succeeded.

An acrid debate followed. Benjamin H. Hill, of Georgia, assumed the lead on the other side, and not only defended Davis against the accusations, which he pronounced unfounded, but preferred similar charges against the treatment of the Southern prisoners in the North. In reply, Mr. Blaine turned upon Mr. Hill with the citation of a resolution introduced by him in the Confederate Senate, providing that every officer or soldier of the United States captured on the soil of the Confederate states should be presumed to have come with intent to excite insurrection, and should suffer the penalty of death. This episode arrested universal attention, and gave Mr. Blaine a still stronger hold as a leader of his party.

Supported the Laws.

Notwithstanding his kindly feeling toward the South, and his earnest objections to what has been popularly termed the Force bill methods, he made no hesitation in supporting whatever laws were on the statute books, and in opposing those who attempted to nullify them by indirect methods, this was in 1879, when Congress was deeply agitated by the conflict over the appropriations bill. The Democrats, having in control of both Houses, had refused to pass the necessary measures for the support of the government unless accompanied by a proviso prohibiting the presence of troops at any place where an execution was being held. The Republicans resisted this attempt, and, in consequence of the failure of the bill at the regular session, the President was compelled to call an extra session. Mr. Blaine was among the foremost in the Senate in defending the executive prerogatives and in opposing what he denounced as legislative coercion.

He pointed out how few troops there were in all of the states of the North and said: "I take no risk in stating, I make bold to declare, that this issue on the troops being a false one, being one without foundation, conceals the true issue, which is simply to get rid of the federal presence of federal elections, to get rid of the civil powers of the United States in the election of representatives to the Congress of the United States." He proceeded to characterize the proposition to withhold appropriations except on the condition of executive compliance as revolutionary saying: "I call it the audacity of revolution for any senator or representative, or any caucus of senators and representatives, to get together and say: 'We will have this legislation, or we will stop the great departments of the government.'" The resistance was unsuccessful and the army appropriation bill finally passed.

Most Dramatic Incident.

Probably the most dramatic incident in Mr. Blaine's Congressional, and perhaps in his entire public career, was the scene in the House on June 5, 1876, in regard to the famous Mulligan letters and the result which had been adopted in the preceding month, to investigate an alleged purchase of the Union Pacific railroad company at an excessive price, of certain bonds of the Little Rock & Fort Smith railroad. It soon became evident that the investigation was aimed at Mr. Blaine. An extended business correspondence on his part with Warren Fisher, of Boston, running through years and relating to various business transactions, had fallen into the hands of a clerk named Mulligan, and it was alleged that the production of this correspondence would confirm the imputations against Mr. Blaine. When Mulligan was summoned to Washington, Mr. Blaine possessed himself of the letters, together with a memorandum that contained a full index and abstract. On June 5 he rose to a personal explanation, and after denying the power of the House to compel the production of his private papers, and his willingness to go to any extremity in defense of his rights, he declared his purpose to withhold nothing. Holding up the letters, he exclaimed:

"Thank God, I am not ashamed to show them. There is the very original package. And with some sense of humiliation, with a mortification I do not attempt to conceal, with a sense of outrage which I think every man in my position would feel, I invite the confidence of 44,000,000 of my countrymen while I read those letters from the desk."

The demonstration closed with a dramatic scene. Josiah Caldwell, one of the originators of the Little Rock & Ft. Smith railroad, who had full knowledge of the full transaction, was traveling in Europe, and both sides were seeking to communicate with him. After finishing the reading of the letters, Mr. Blaine turned to the chairman of the committee and demanded to know whether he had received any dispatches from Mr. Caldwell. Receiving an evasive answer, Mr. Blaine asserted, as within his own knowledge, that the chairman had received such a dispatch, "ominously and absolutely exonerating me from this charge, and you have suppressed it."

POW-WOW TO BE HELD SOON.

Navajo Indians Don't Like the School Regulations.

Denver, Col., Dec. 19.—A special to the Republican from Durango, Colo., says: From a Navajo sub-chief who came in from the reservation to-day it was learned that in six days there would be a gathering of the tribes at Round Rock, near Cheese Store, for the purpose of holding a grand pow-wow.

Black Hawk and other chiefs will be present and the talk will be on the method adopted by the present agent to compel them to send their children to school. The result of the pow-wow is a matter of conjecture, but unless the younger men of the tribes can be restrained there will be trouble.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAD.

First Definite Tidings of the Lost Gilcher.

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 15.—A dispatch received here contained the first definite tidings of the steel steamer Gilcher, and tended to confirm the general belief that she was unseaworthy. It stated that a bottle was picked up on the west side of the North Manitou Island last Thursday by Christine Olstran, containing a letter written with a pencil, of which the following is a copy:

"Whoever finds this bottle, please send it to No. 440 Ohio street, Buffalo. She broke in half. Can't last much longer. The Gilcher is a goner. Good-bye everybody. TOM FINLEY."

BRIGHT METEOR FELL TO EARTH

Red Hot from Shooting Through Space.

Albany, Ogn., Dec. 17.—About 5 o'clock yesterday morning Fred Reis saw a bright meteor approaching from the southeast. It was traveling very rapidly and with a running sound fell into the street followed by a wake of bright sparks. Reis hastened to the spot where it struck the earth, and found a rock fourteen inches in circumference. It was still very hot and charred a board upon which it was placed. The rock had the appearance of a volcanic production.

SEVERE WEATHER IN KANSAS.

Much Suffering Among the Settlers.

Norton, Kans., Dec. 19.—The extreme winter weather that has prevailed in Western Kansas this month has caused much suffering among the settlers. There has been much snow, and the weather has been very cold. Cattle have been deprived of the grazing, and the storms have been so extensive that it is almost impossible to keep the settlers supplied with sufficient fuel to keep them warm.

THIS IS A GOOD CONDITION

And It is Due to the McKinley Law.

Pittsburg, Dec. 17.—The glass factories in the Pittsburg district are enjoying an unprecedented season of prosperity. This is usually the dull season in the glass trade, but in many respects this year is an exception.

All the glass houses are running full, and in some branches of the trade the houses are crowded with orders.

FOREIGN NEWS.

ARRESTS AT PARIS

Of Prominent Men, Charged With Being Connected With the Panama Scandal—Great Excitement.

Paris, Dec. 16.—M. Charles Aime Marie De Lesseps and M. Marius Etienne Fontane and M. San-Leroy have been arrested by direction of the minister of justice, M. Bourgeois, for their alleged connection with the Panama canal frauds. M. Henry Louis Felix Cottau, for whose arrest an order was

PRESIDENT CARNOT.

also issued, has fled to Vienna. San-Leroy is charged with having accepted a land as a member of the Chamber of Deputies.

The charges against the officers of the company, on which summons were previously served, and on which they have now been arrested, are that they have jointly made out fraudulent, imaginary credit; that they have dissipated capital entrusted to them for a specific purpose; and that they have swindled others out of part, or all of their means of living on their fortunes. These offenses comes within the reach of seven articles of the penal code. The theory of the prosecution is that the Panama affair was a swindle from the beginning. The original concessionaires are sheltered by prescription.

The only topic of conversation in political and social circles is the Panama scandal, and the arrest to-day of several of the persons who are charged with being implicated in the affair, has caused the greatest excitement, although rumor had it last night that such action had been determined upon. What the outcome will be no one is able to predict, but it can be said that those who have the best interests of the republic at heart, are deeply grieved at the selfishness that has been displayed by men in high positions, many of whom were sworn to preserve the honor of France.

The papers to-day contain little of interest to partisans except matter bearing upon the scandal. The moderate Republican papers congratulate the government upon the energy displayed by its members in yesterday's debate in the Chamber of Deputies. The Conservative members claim that the result of yesterday's vote discredits the government.

PANAMA CANAL DIRECTORS

Protest Their Innocence—Why De Lesseps Was Not Arrested.

Paris, Dec. 17.—The arrested Panama canal directors were arraigned before Magistrate Franquelli, protested their innocence. They were committed to the Maza's prison.

Jules Picard, president of the Suez Canal company, has written a letter to the president of the Paris Agents de Change, saying that the shareholders in the Suez canal need not be alarmed over the arrest of Charles De Lesseps, as the Suez Canal company is absolutely certain to progress satisfactorily.

The arrest of Charles De Lesseps was so quietly effected that even his wife was not aware of it until the coachman returned home. It is supposed that Mr. Cottu has gone to Turkey, where he has extensive and great industrial interests. He has a fine residence in Constantinople. The prisoners, after being lodged in jail, were permitted to obtain cheap meals from a neighboring restaurant. It is reported that M. Brisson will prosecute some of the members of the Reinach.

Charles De Lesseps cannot be regarded as a vulgar swindler; yet from his technical training as an engineer, he ought to have known better than his father the difficulty of the enterprise. He was deceived by the belief that the Reinachs controlled parliament, the press and judicature, and also by the hope that the European powers would take over the plant and co-operate with Lesseps in finishing the canal.

The wife of Ferdinand De Lesseps was not arrested, is that he took no active part in the bribery operations.

ALL FRANCE TO BE SEARCHED.

The Panama Scandal Likely to Cause More Sensations.

Paris, Dec. 20.—An important conference lasting from midnight to 2 a. m. was held at the perfecture of police. There were present the public prosecutor, many police commissioners and several investigating magistrates. As a result searches and arrests in connection with the Panama scandal are expected. It is said that despite its resolution to adjourn till Wednesday, the Panama investigating committee will hold a special meeting to-day.

The Figaro tells of a mysterious search conducted yesterday in several banks by Commissioner Cochefert and states that many important documents implicating more members of the chamber of deputies in the Panama scandal were seized.

TO ABANDON THE ARMY BILL.

Caprivi Cannot Win the Centrists Over to Him.

Berlin, Dec. 14.—Caprivi is doing everything in his power to gain time in the hope of winning over the center party, but everything points to the abandonment of the army bill. The socialists are actively organizing in view of the dissolution of the reichstag, and declare they are certain of an enormous increase in votes.

A Cholera Survey.

London, Dec. 16.—The government will appoint a cholera survey similar to the one of 1884 and 1886, with a view to preparing for the epidemic next spring and summer.

SYRUP of FIGS

ONE ENJOYS

Both the method and results when Syrup of Figs is taken; it is pleasant and refreshing to the taste, and acts gently yet promptly on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels, cleanses the system effectually, dispels colds, headaches and fevers and cures habitual constipation. Syrup of Figs is the only remedy of its kind ever produced, pleasing to the taste and acceptable to the stomach, prompt in its action and truly beneficial in its effects, prepared only from the most healthy and agreeable substances, its many excellent qualities commend it to all and have made it the most popular remedy known.

Syrup of Figs is for sale in 50c and $1 bottles by all leading druggists. Any reliable druggist who may not have it on hand will procure it promptly for any one who wishes to try it. Do not accept any substitute.

CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.
LOUISVILLE, KY. NEW YORK, N.Y.

STILL AFTER THE HEBREWS.

Russia Enacts a Law Which Means More Misery.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 19.—The Russian senate has promulgated a law requiring that Jewish artisans shall only reside in places where official boards of trade exist, the pretense being that the Jews can thus be kept more effectively under official regulation and supervision. Official boards of trade exist only in about ten per cent of the towns in Russia and the decree therefore means a vast addition to the misery and oppression under which the Russian Jews already labor. Many thousands of Jewish artisans will be compelled to remove from the towns in which they are located to enter the competition for existence in the populous centers of the Jewish pale.

The object of the new law is believed to be to start the Jews to stirring again and drive them over the frontier, whether other countries are willing to receive them or not. The partial embargo on emigration to America had caused a cessation of the rush of Russian Jews to the frontier, and the Russian authorities, who are anxious to get rid of the Jews without absolutely bayoneting them across the border, have been much irritated by the change in affairs.

BERING SEA CONTROVERSY.

Canada Securing Evidence on the Subject.

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 19.—Major Sherwood, commissioner of the Dominion police, has returned from the Pacific coast, after an absence from Ottawa of about two months. During that time he has been collecting evidence confirmatory of the position which Canada has taken in the Bering sea controversy.

About three weeks ago the dispatches announced that Major Sherwood had been among the Indians of Queen Charlotte Islands, from whom, it is said, officers of the United States navy had obtained evidence favorable to the American case, by the exercise of unfair means of persuasion. It is said that important evidence bearing upon this disagreeable phase of the difficulty, has been obtained by the commissioner.

AMERICAN DELEGATES BLAMED

With the Failure of the Monetary Conference.

London, Dec. 16.—The Times, referring to the international monetary conference, says: "The American delegates must be held largely responsible for the ignominious failure of the conference. America called the meeting, as if prepared with a practical scheme, and then offered only vague platitudes.

"The exuberant rhetoric of Senator Jones would have been more to the purpose if the Americans themselves had not grown tired of protecting silver."

Delegates Coming Home.

London, Dec. 16.—The American delegation to the international monetary conference are booked to sail on the steamer Lahn from Southampton for New York on December 21.—It is not understood that there will be any celebration or dinners in honor of the occasion.

Fearful Mine Explosion.

London, Dec. 14.—A fearful explosion has occurred to-day at the Bamfurlong colliery, Wigan, and not less than fifty lives have been lost. The men went to work as usual this morning, and after the colliery had been inspected in the usual way.

They had not been at work long when a terrible explosion shook the earth for a great distance, and a cloud of smoke shot up through the shaft into the air. A multitude of people rushed toward the mine and the greatest excitement prevailed.

It was soon ascertained that a large number had perished, and the wailing and weeping of women and children made an indescribable scene.

It is believed the explosion was caused by accumulated coal gas, which had escaped the notice of the official charged with the inspection of the mine.

Final Statistics.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 17.—Final official statistics of the cholera epidemic in Russia have been issued. According to those figures there have been 130,417 deaths from European, and 133,343 deaths from Asiatic cholera since the outbreak of the disease in the empire, making a total of 263,760 deaths.

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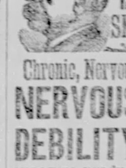

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EPILEPSY OR FITS.

Can this disease be cured? Most physicians say No—I say, Yes; all forms and the worst cases. After 20 years study and experiment I have found the remedy.—Epilepsy is cured by it; cured, not subdued by opiates—like all other quack treatment. Do not despair. Forget past impositions on your purse, past outrages on your confidence, past failures. Look forward, not backward. My remedy is of to-day. Valuable work on the subject, and large bottle of the remedy—sent free for trial. Mention Post-Office and Express address.

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If it does not cure ... Dr. Kay's Lung Balm for Coughs, Colds, Throat and Lung Diseases, Asthma, Bronchitis, Whooping Cough, Croup, Hoarseness, Sore Throat, Influenza, Grippe, Pneumonia, Pleurisy, Impudency, etc. ENLARGEMENT OF THE HEART. Dr. Kay's Renovator cures Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Biliousness, Jaundice, Kidney Complaints, Female Weakness, Nervousness, Sick Headache, Constipation, Piles, Malaria, Blood Diseases, Boils, Blotches, Eruptions, Acne, Eczema, Old Sores, Ulcers, Painful Swellings from whatever cause, positively and forever expelled from the system, by means of safe, time

WASHINGTON.

UNCLE SAM'S GOLD RESERVE.

Secretary Foster Says it Will be Maintained.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Secretary of the Treasury Charles Foster expressed himself freely to a reporter respecting the alarm felt in financial circles over anticipated large gold exports. He said he looked on the situation not simply as a spectator, awaiting his retirement from office: "I am secretary of the Treasury," he said, "and will be relieved on the 4th of March next. My duty will be performed in the interest of the public welfare as vigorously as if my time were not soon to end. Every resource at my command will be availed of to preserve the gold and silver, as I am commanded by law."

"How about the reserve in the treasury?"

"No one can obtain gold from the treasury without paying money for it, and with the money thus received I can recoup the gold. There is also the right vested in the secretary of the Treasury to sell bonds if necessary to maintain the gold reserve. The treasury situation as to the cash balance is such as to permit the free use of cash received for gold to again obtain the gold."

"Will the gold reserve be maintained?"

"It will be."

This was stated with the utmost emphasis. "I firmly believe that with the resources at the command of the department, I shall not be seriously embarrassed in more than maintaining it. I recommend to Congress in my annual report that the reserve be increased from $100,000,000 to $125,000,000."

As the secretary's report was prepared before the present abnormal drain of gold to Europe had started, Secretary Foster reasonably claims credit for fully anticipating the present pressure and taking all precautions to meet it.

THE TWO NEW WAR SHIPS.

Not Decided Yet What Firm Will Build Them.

New York, Dec. 19.—A Washington special says: "The probabilities are that the Messrs. Cramp will not build both the Iowa and the Brooklyn, the two new men-of-war. No formal decision has yet been reached in the matter, but it is understood that the secretary of the Navy would like to see a wider distribution of the work, and is thinking seriously of awarding one of the two ships to the Union Iron Works, of San Francisco, who are the next highest bidders. There is a difference of $54,000 between the bids of the Cramps and the Union Iron works for the armored cruiser Brooklyn, and $140,000 for the battle ship Iowa.

In calculating the difference in cost of construction between the East and West, it has been customary to add three per cent in favor of the Western firm. If this allowance should now be made, the Union Iron Works would get the contract for the armored cruiser. The difference between the bids for the battle ships, however, exceeds the three per cent. Secretary Tracy has stated, it is understood, that he will make the award for the Brooklyn to the Union Works, if the chief constructor and engineer in chief so recommend, and these officials now have the matter under advisement.

UP WILL GO THE WHISKY TAX.

Representative Owen Scott's Pending Bill.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Representative Owen Scott, of Illinois, is collecting facts and figures and will immediately, after Thursday, request the ways and means committee to record him a hearing on his bill increasing the internal revenue tax on whisky. Thus far, the committee has no indication of its attitude towards this measure, but it has attracted so much attention throughout the country that Mr. Scott expects considerable co-operation in pressing it upon the attention of all those desiring a speedy means of increasing the federal revenues.

The bill increases the tax on distilled spirits from 90 cents to $1.25 per gallon. In regard to his bill Mr. Scott says that the evident desire of the country is to tax luxuries and so far as possible let necessaries go free. The present tax on whisky produces about $90,000,000 annually. The increase as proposed in this bill will give almost 40 per cent more revenues, or a total of about $125,000,000 from distilled spirits alone. This will partially supply the loss of revenues by regular schedule of the McKinley bill.

FIGHT TO THE LAST DITCH.

Republicans Will Not Give Up the Senate.

Washington, Dec. 17.—(Special.)—Republican leaders are growing more strongly of the opinion daily, that Republicans will control the Senate during the next two years. Advices received from various states where the senatorship has been in doubt, indicate that the Alliance people are not inclined to co-operate with the Democrats, this gives the Republicans a marked advantage in all the five doubtful states.

The action of the Democratic committee officially charging that Republicans were trying to steal senatorships in these states, increases the determination of all Republicans to fight to the last ditch. It is now learned that the Republicans have a clear majority of nine in North Dakota and five in Wyoming; the Democrats have but seventeen members of the legislature in Kansas, and that the Populists hold the balance of power in Montana and California.

WILL GARRISON KEY WEST

On Recommendations from Gen. O. O. Howard.

New York, Dec. 19.—The war department has decided again to garrison Key West, Fla. During the past week orders were received by Col. L. La Rhett Livingston, commanding the Third regiment U. S. artillery, to select, on his own judgment, three batteries of artillery for service in Florida. Two of the batteries he is directed to send to Fort Barrancas and the third to Key West.

Key West has not been garrisoned by the United States since the latter part of the 70's. The prevalency of yellow fever on the island, until recent years, has always caused Key West to be deemed an unhealthy spot for troops. The present movement is understood to be in accordance with recent recommendations of Maj.-Gen. O. O. Howard, commanding the division of the Atlantic.

REPORT OF THE SOO CANAL.

Gen. Poe Presents Some Satisfactory Figures.

Washington, Dec. 19.—(Special.)—Col. Poe, the engineer officer in charge of St. Mary's canal, in his report sent to Congress, states that business through the canal increased about from 20 to 25 per cent last year, as compared with the preceding year, the number of vessels passing the canal averaging 54 per day against 45 per day the preceding year.

The number of passing vessels of all kinds was 2,380 greater than the preceding year, and freight tonnage was 2,325,576 tons, being an increase of 26 per cent. Nearly every class of freight, except coffee and building stone, increased.

SHARP COMMITTEE CONTEST.

Ways and Means Committee to Count the Treasury Cash.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Senator Mitchell has introduced a bill to establish a temporary camp for military instruction of the army and volunteer forces at Chicago during next August. The bill authorizes the President to accept as volunteers in the United States service for instruction not exceeding 50,000 state militia for fifteen days.

The President is further authorized to notify the governors of states and request them to inform him before May 1st of the number of organizations and men that will volunteer for service. The bill appropriates $1,500,00 for the camp.

Repeal of the Silver Law.

Washington, Dec. 20.—(Special.)—Congressman Harter and other prominent anti-silver members of the House are preparing for an active fight immediately after the holidays for the repeal of the present silver law.

Mr. Harter expresses the opinion that the bill for its repeal will pass before the end of the session.

SHIP CANALS.

The Bill Pending in Congress Will be Passed if Possible—Five Different Routes Contemplated—Canada Not Idle.

Washington, Dec. 16.—An effort will be made in the House soon to pass the pending bill providing for further surveys for the ship canal to connect the great lakes with the ocean. The project is of particular interest just now, by reason of the somewhat strained commercial relations between the United States and Canada, and because of the fact that revenue-cutters recently put on the lakes by Great Britain are practically warships. The sentiment is growing that the least the United States can do, under the circumstances, is to cut a channel through her own territory and make it practicable to rush war vessels from the New York navy yard to the great lakes whenever an emergency may arise. It is believed that the cost of this would be from $150,000,000 to $250,000,000.

The Five Proposed Routes.

1. The Erie Canal route—The Erie canal connects Lake Erie at Buffalo with the Hudson river at Troy and Albany, a distance of about 352 miles. It has 71 lift and two guard locks. It has a depth of seven feet over mitre sills. The capacity of the locks is now being enlarged, but the depth is not being increased. The total distance from Lake Erie to the sea by this route is about 482 miles and to Liverpool about 3,022 miles.

2. The St. Lawrence route—This route connects Lake Erie with tide water at Montreal on the St. Lawrence as follows: From Lake Erie to Lake Ontario by the Welland canal, thence through Lake Ontario to the head of the St. Lawrence river, and thence by the river and the five canals around its shallows to Montreal. This route has 53 locks, and the distance from Lake Erie to Montreal is about 375 miles. The distance from Lake Erie to Liverpool is about 3,220 miles. The minimum depth is now nine feet in the St Lawrence canal, but an increase to fourteen feet depth is in progress.

3. Oswego Canal route—This route connects Lake Erie at Oswego with the Hudson river at Troy and Albany as follows: By the Oswego canal from Oswego to the Oneida river, thence by the canal to Syracuse, and also by the Oneida river, lake, and canal to Durhamville, and from Syracuse to Durhamville by the Erie canal to Troy and Albany. The length of the route is about 208 miles. It has 67 locks and a depth of about seven feet.

4. Champlain Canal route—This route connects Montreal with the Hudson river as follows: From the St. Lawrence river, 45 miles below Montreal, to Lake Champlain, through the Champlain canal to Waterford, three miles above the state dam, and thence by lock to tide water on the Hudson at Troy, or by Erie canal to Albany. The route has 30 locks. The minimum depth is seven feet, and the distance from Montreal to Albany is 311 miles.

In this connection, however, it should be remarked that only about 3 per cent of the product of the Northwest finds its way to the sea for export. The grain product for the United States and Canada for 1890 is estimated at about 2,650,000 bushels, while the quantity of grain exported, including flour, during the same year was about 211,000,000 bushels, or less than one-twelfth (8 per cent of the total production). The market for by far the greater part of these products lies in our own country south of the lakes and the St. Lawrence, and no improvement in waterways in Canada or elsewhere can greatly influence the general direction of its movement. But, although the danger of losing a part of our carrying trade has, perhaps, been somewhat magnified it is a real one, and accordingly various projects for the improvements of our water routes have been proposed and discussed.

The most important of these—indeed the only one which need be considered in connection with the proposed improvement of the Hudson—is the enlargement of the Erie canal, so as to permit its navigation by the largest vessels now carrying the commerce of the great lakes. This project requires the increase of depth to at least eighteen feet, a corresponding widening, and reconstruction of the entire lock system on a grand scale. The cost of the work involved has been variously estimated at from $150,000,000 to $250,000,000.

THE STATEMENT WAS UNTRUE.

No Pension Claims Held up Because of no Funds.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Gen. Green B. Raum, pension commissioner, has expressed surprise at the publication of the statement that the pension bureau was holding up about 200,000 adjudicated claims because there was not money enough in the treasury to pay them.

"I cannot imagine," said the commissioner, "how such a story originated, unless it was based on a table contained in my annual report. In that table I gave the condition of the business of the bureau on the 12th of October, which showed that 184,706 claims were on the completed files apparently incomplete. But those claims were not held up and not now held up. I shall publish a statement tomorrow showing that the number had been reduced to 150,000 up to the 10th of December."

A BIG DEMAND FOR HOMES.

All Available Government Land Will Soon be Occupied.

Washington, Dec. 15.—It is stated at the general land office that during the last few months there has been an almost unprecedented call from the Western and Northwestern states for information as to the location of unoccupied government lands, and as to what steps are necessary to secure them under the settlement laws.

This fact is regarded by the officials as indicative of a growing desire among the unemployed to secure homes in the West, and it is confidently expected that within the next very few years all the desirable holdings in the new states and territories will have been filed upon as permanent homes.

52D CONGRESS 2D SESSION.

December 13.—Senate—Bills introduced: For suspension of immigration; to facilitate promotions in the navy; to provide for national encampement at World's Fair; to amend inter-state commerce act; to extend jurisdiction of courts in Oklahoma.

House—The matter of investigating the condition of the treasury was placed in the hands of the committee on Ways and Means. Bill passed: For distribution of awards made under convention between United States and Mexico.

December 14.—Senate—Resolution agreed to: Calling for information on the subject of civil service. The McGarrahan claim was taken up but not disposed of.

House—Bills passed: Making appropriations for military purposes; authorizing the construction of several bridges; extending the provisions of act for immediate transportation of dutiable goods to Duluth.

December 15.—Senate—Speeches on the McGarrahan claim and the anti-option bill were made by Senators Hunton and George. The Senate then went into executive session.

House—Resolution agreed to: Providing for usual holiday recess. Bill passed: To ratify agreement with Kickapoo Indians.

WORK OF CONGRESS.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The Senate today adjourned soon after meeting, on motion of Senator Gorman (Dem.) as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Senator Gibson, of Louisiana.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Senate adjourned as a mark of respect to the memory of Senator Gibson.

House.—Bill increasing pension of Mexican veterans from $8 to $12 per month, passed. Bill passed limiting jurisdiction of circuit and district courts of the United States.

Capital Brevities.

The boom for Morrison, of Illinois, for a Cabinet position is rapidly growing.

Justice Lamar is ill again and will probably start South in a few days for a short vacation.

The committee report in the Raum investigation will be considered by the House soon.

People's party congressmen will oppose all legislation aimed at the Interstate commerce law.

Senator McMillan, of Michigan, introduced a bill amending the interstate commerce law, prohibiting division of freight by competing roads.

Representative De Armond, of Missouri, has introduced a bill into Congress providing for the election of President and Vice-President by the people.

Governor Murphy, of Arizona, is in Washington, strongly urging the immediate admission of the territory into the Union. He contends that the financial strength and the population of the territory are unquestioned, and that its late rapid growth is almost phenomenal.

Representative Antony, of Texas, has introduced in the House a bill repealing the act of June 27, 1890, granting pensions to soldiers and sailors and to widows; minor children and dependent parents or soldiers and sailors. The bill also provides that all pensions granted under the act shall be discontinued.

Kitchen Economy.

Actual tests show the Royal Baking Powder to be 27 per cent. stronger than any other brand on the market. If another baking powder is forced upon you by the grocer, see that you are charged the correspondingly lower price.

THE MONEY FLURRY

No Danger of Draining the Gold Reserve Too Closely—Nearly $600,000,000 of Gold in the Country.

Washington, Dec. 20.—(Special.)—Notwithstanding that the financial flurry in New York yesterday created considerable excitement in Washington, Secretary Charles Foster was undisturbed and complacent. His assertion of the day previous, that the gold reserve would not be affected by any foreign shipments, was reiterated, with some strong additional argument.

The Country All Right.

"The country's all right," said Secretary Foster. "Last month the export from this country amounted to $7,000,000, but the Treasury lost half a million only. The reserve limit is fixed at $100,000,000, and I have $24,000,000 more than that. The resources of this country are greater and more varied than most people know, and the money that is paid to the Treasury for gold can be used for replacing the amount sold. The money is needed West or South to buy grain, provisions and cotton; and if I can save a man five or six hundred dollars on a million he doesn't stop at giving me gold in New York for currency laid down for him wherever he wants it. If they get us down in this matter, it will be only after a long fight and a hard one.

"But if it were not for the scare that seems inevitable in connection with the shipment of gold abroad, it would not be such a bad thing after all. The balance of trade is in our favor at the rate of $20,000,000 a month, and the gold will certainly find its way back here. Last month we shipped more provisions abroad than ever before, and I believe the showing for December will be as good."

Continuing, the secretary said: "We have nearly $600,000,000 of gold in the United States. If $200,000,000 were to go out it would result in the reduction of our public debt to that extent with the accompanying saving of (interest on that amount; I am not at all uneasy regarding the situation."

GENERAL NEWS.

SENATOR GIBSON IS DEAD.

His Demise Occurred at Hot Springs on the 15th.

Hot Springs, Dec. 16.—Senator Gibson, of Louisiana, died here yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock. He had been ill for a long time and his death was not unexpected.

Senator Gibson was born at Spring Hill, Ky., September 10, 1832; received his education in Lexington, Ky.,

SENATOR GIBSON.

in Terre Bonne Parish, La., at Yale, in the law department of the Tulane University of Louisiana. In 1855 he was offered the secretaryship of legation to Spain, which he refused. The senator acted as aid to the governor of Louisiana at the commencement of the civil war, and was rather prominent place in the Confederate army.

Gibson is both lawyer and planter, and was elected to the Forty-third Congress from the Second congressional district, but denied admission; he was, however, a representative in the 44th, 45th, 46th and 47th Congresses, and was elected to the United States Senate without opposition, as a Democrat, taking his seat March 4, 1883. In 1888 he was re-elected, his term of office running until March 3, 1895.

WAS STRICKEN BY EPILEPSY.

Ex-Congressman Morse Dies at Boston.

Boston, Dec. 16.—Congressman Leopold Morse called at the Hotel Vendome shortly before 6 o'clock last night to see Representative Hitt, who was attending the meeting of the Boston Merchants' association. While awaiting in one of the ante rooms of the hotel he had an epileptic stroke.

His physician was called, and just as the guests of the Merchants' association were filing into the dining hall, he was removed to his house, No. 203 Commonwealth avenue, nearly opposite, where he died within an hour.

ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY.

New York Legislature Will Do So This Winter.

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 19.—A determined effort will be made this winter to have the legislature abolish capital punishment and substitute life imprisonment. Some of the strongest advocates of this are returning to the legislature this year and it is intimated that Governor Flowers is not averse to it, in fact, favors it. Assemblyman Steen and Senator Smith favored bills of this character proposed last year.

The bill to be proposed this year will also take from the chief executive the power of pardon, and in its place allow pardons to be granted by the court alone upon the presentation of new evidence of an extenuating nature.

TWO FUSIONISTS ARE ELECTED.

Republicans Lose Two More Offices in Michigan.

Lansing, Mich., Dec. 17.—Secretary of State Blacker announced yesterday that as a member of the state board of canvassers he could state positively that fusionist candidates Newton and Shaffer were elected on the state ticket to the positions of justice of the Supreme court and land commissioner respectively.

All the returns are in the hands of the board except those from Ionic county.

Prof. Smith Suspended.

Cincinnati, Dec. 14.—Dr. Henry Preserved Smith, of Lane seminary, who has been found guilty by the presbytery of teaching what was not orthodox, said that he did not intend to let the matter rest here. He says he will appeal the case to the synod, which meets next September. Meantime he will continue in his professor's chair at Lane seminary.

Idaho Official.

Boise City, Idaho, Dec. 16.—The official count for Idaho has been completed by the secretary of state. It gives: Weaver, 10,430; Harrison, 8,799; McConnell, Republican, for governor, has 1,490 plurality.

South Carolina's Vote.

Columbia, S. C., Dec. 16.—The official vote of South Carolina in the recent election for President is as follows: Cleveland, 54,626; Harrison, 13,384; Weaver, 2,410; Bidwell, none.

BLAINE'S RELIGION.

He Has Leaned Toward Congregationalism—No Truth in Recent Rumors of His Becoming a Catholic.

Philadelphia, Dec. 16.—A resident of this city, who has been an intimate friend of the Blaine family for years, speaking of Mr. Blaine's religious views, said that he considered that the great statesman was a Congregationalist, which was Mrs. Blaine's creed. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Blaine were regular church goers, but whenever they did go, it was as a rule to the Congregational church, and while at Washington he did the same. Miss Hattie Blaine, the unmarried daughter, and Mrs. Walter Damrosch, the friend said, are regular attendants at the Episcopal church, and Mrs. McCormick is a strict Presbyterian, while Mrs. Coppinger is a Catholic.

"Furthermore, I have been in every room of the Blaine household," said the friend, "and I have never seen anything that would suggest to me that Mr. Blaine was a Roman Catholic. There is not a crucifix or any other Catholic symbol in the home."

"How can you explain the visits of Cardinal Gibbons and Father Ducey to Mr. Blaine?"

"I know of no other explanation than that of replying with a query, 'Why do prominent men come to see Mr. Blaine? Why does the heathen Turk come?'"

"Then you do not think that it is at all probable that Mr. Blaine will become a Catholic?"

"I do not think so."

Mr. Blaine's religious training during childhood was conducted entirely by his mother, who was a Miss Maria Gillespie, a very devout Catholic of Washington county. His father, Ephraim I. Blaine, came from a long line of Covenanters, and all his alliances were with the Presbyterian church. When running for a political office he was said to be a Catholic in disguise, which was denied. Before death he became a Catholic, and was buried in the graveyard of the Catholic church at Brownville.

SATOLLI WILL REMAIN HERE.

Jealous Prelates Cannot Force His Recall.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 17.—When asked by the Associated Press representative as to the mission of Mgr. Satolli, and the extent of his powers, Archbishop Ireland replied that in view of the contradictory reports put into circulation regarding Mgr. Satolli, and of the uncertainty into which in consequence, the public mind has been thrown, he is not now unwilling to speak, however persistently was heretofore his resolve to be silent. He said:

"Mgr. O'Connell, who had been especially chosen by the pope to accompany Mgr. Satolli to America and introduce him into his new surroundings, sails from New York tomorrow, returning to his duties as rector of the American college in Rome. His work in America is finished, and his departure has no further significance. Mgr. Satolli remains, and will remain with us for a good while to come. The report that he has been recalled by the pope, or is likely to be soon recalled, is simply absrud. This report, and others, revealing a similar animus, are the inventions of parties who suffer defeat from his presence, and would be delighted, if by creating a public opinion adverse to his influence, they could in some manner force him to retire from the country."

SABBATH UNION DEFEATED

At One of Its Own Meetings—A Great Surprise.

Chicago, Dec. 14.—The American Sabbath Union suffered a defeat last night at one of its meetings which so surprised the leaders present that the incident was a veritable sensation. It was an unexpected blow and the more grievous because it was administered by one of the most Sabbatarian of all Christian denominations. It is a national convention and arrangements were made for four mass meetings throughout the city last night to forward the movement. One of these meetings was held at the M. E. church, but everything went on smoothly for a time and the "American Sabbath" had everything its own way.

Dr. H. H. George, a leader in the movement, Mr. Locke and others advocated the closing of the World's Fair Sunday and vigorously denounced the efforts of the directors and of the mayor and city council to have congress repeal the closing act. These speeches were warmly, if not unanimously approved by frequent "Amens" and clapping of hands. No one looked for any opposition to a long set of resolutions which were read condemning the efforts being made for an open fair on Sunday. When the reading was concluded Rev. R. H. N. Axtell put the resolution to a vote. To his surprise the "ayes" and "noes" seemed equal. The chairman then said that a rising vote would seem to be in order, and he requested all in favor of the resolution to stand up. The secretary counted 30 on their feet.

"All opposed will rise." The rest of the audience, with the exception of four, who seemed to have no opinions on the matter, stood up, and the secretary, looking astounded at the evident majority, paid little attention to counting heads and declared there were at least 35 against the resolution, and what seemed strangest, was that many of them were women.

DESPERATE GANG CAPTURED

Henry Starr in Custody for Murder.

Tallalah, I. T., Dec. 20.—Henry Starr, the noted desperado who last week shot and killed United States Deputy Marshal Floyd Wilson, was captured to-day by United States Deputy Marshal Hick Bruner and posse. Bruner has been on Starr's trail ever since the killing of last week, and last night surrounded him and party.

At daybreak this morning the desperadoes were commanded to surrender, and did so without a struggle. The desperado's band consisted of Starr, Stone, Rowe and two others. They will be taken to Fort Smith, Ark., for a preliminary hearing.

AFTER BROOKLYN ALDERMEN.

Several Indicted for Boodling and General Crookedness.

New York, Dec. 20.—A local paper says: There has been a rumor current around Brooklyn that several of the aldermen who had figured in the arrangements for the celebration on Columbus Day, and who had authorized the alleged extravagant expenditure of the city's funds, have been indicted by the grand jury.

It is well known that the members of the grand jury have been making an investigation in regard to the expenditure of the $50,000 appropriated by the board, and now, it is said, have succeeded in eliciting sufficient evidence from the witnesses summoned to convince them that there was some corpoeddaess for which somebody should be held responsible.

The "Jim Crow" Law.

New Orleans, La., Dec. 20.—The Supreme court yesterday declared unconstitutional the law passed two years ago, and known as the "Jim Crow" law, making it compulsory on railroads to provide separate cars for negroes.

Prohibition Bill.

Columbia, S. C., Dec. 14.—The strinvent prohibition bill passed its third reading in the house and the senate will now have to struggle with it. The general impression seems to be that the senate will not pass it.

THAT CONFERENCE.

Minutes Just Made Public at New York—Satolli to Remain Permanently in this Country as the Pope's Legate.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 15.—There has just been issued in this city for private circulation among the bishops of the Catholic church in the United States an authentic "abstract of the minutes of the third annual conference of the Most Reverend Archbishops of the United States."

The first session opened at 10 a. m., November 6, 1892. His eminence, Cardinal Gibbons, opened the conference with prayer. Archbishop Ireland tendered his resignation as secretary of the board, and Bishop Chapelle was chosen in his stead. Then the cardinal introduced the apostolic delegate, the Most Rev. Archbishop Satolli. He informed the metropolitans that he had been commissioned by the Holy Father to speak to them, in his name, on the question of Catholic education. He then read and explained fourteen propositions which he laid before the archbishops for the purpose of finally settling the school question, and of indicating the means that should be adopted for the imparting of religious instruction to Catholic children.

After having declared that this statement was made in the name of the pope, Mgr. Satolli went on to say that he had been charged, moreover, by Leo XIII, to inform the metropolitans that as it has been customary with the Holy See to appoint apostolic delegates to reside permanently in countries where the hierarchy is well established and religion is flourishing, it was the Pope's heartfelt desire that now a permanent apostolic delegation should be established in the United States with the concurrence of the most reverend archbishops.

Satolli's Document.

At the afternoon session of the same day, the document presented by Mgr. Satolli was taken up, and some modifications suggested. Mgr. Satolli, who afterwards entered the meeting, explained that the document represented the mind of the pope, which did not admit of discussion, that the style and expressions were his (Mgr. Satolli's) own, and that he would be most happy to make in them any modifications the assembled prelates deemed better.

In the seventh and last session, Saturday, November 19, the Most Reverend delegate made a kindly and eloquent speech, thanking the prelates for their kind reception, and adding that their deliberations would be productive of excellent results. At the request of all the members of the board, he kindly consented to alter the last sentence of his pamphlet by concluding this document with the following words: "All of which has been read and weighed in the meeting of the archbishops, the difficulties have been solved, the modifications asked for have been made."

It was unanimously resolved that the most eminent chairman should convey by letter to the most reverend apostolic delegate the grateful acknowledgement, deep sense of respect, and best wishes for his person and sacred character. They would, indeed, be grateful to the Holy Father for having sent to them so learned and so holy a representative on a special mission, the duties of which he had so ably discharged.

THE VATICAN INDIGNANT.

The Pope Does Not Like Criticisms on Satolli.

Rome, 15.—Much irritation exists at the vatican on account of the attacks made by certain American Catholic journals on the person and the mission of Mgr. Satolli. It is learned that, as regards the opposition made to the policy of the pope, the vatican may cause an inquiry to be made into its origin.

The holy father is desirous that his agents shall be respected and that his views of pacification in the United States shall be followed. If there be any need of it, the pope will in this instance also take severe measures with those who oppose his intervention. It is believed here that the vatican knows whence the hostile American criticism proceeds.

KANSAS SENATORIAL FIGHT.

More Candidates for the Place in the Field.

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 15.—The movement among the "stalwart" Democrats to elect a United States Senator is rapidly taking shape. Candidates for the place are becoming numerous. The latest additions to the list are W. C. Jones, chairman of the state central committee, and Tully Scott, of Oberlin. There are now six Democrats in the field, three of them, John Martin, Tully Scott, and W. C. Jones are Fusionists, and hope to effect a combination of Democrats and Populists. The remaining three are stalwart Democrats, and will require the Republican votes together with the Democrats. They are Bailey Waggoner, of Atchison; A. A. Harris, of Fort Scott, and Ed. Carroll, of Leavenworth. The Republicans will meet in caucus one week before the legislature convenes.

A Republican will be nominated for Senator, and he will be voted for until such time as some Democrat who took no active part in the fusion movement, gets enough opposition votes to make his election possible with Republican assistance. Then the Republican programme is to abandon the Republican candidate and elect the Democrat.

A PREPARATORY INSTITUTION

Jay Gould Thought of Endowing One Handsomely.

New York, Dec. 14.—According to a story circulated yesterday Jay Gould not long before his death wrote a letter in which he is said to have suggested one million dollars as probably the proper amount that would be needed to endow a preparatory institution, such as he had in mind, with the object in view of fitting young men for college.

George Gould and Edwin Gould refused to be seen. It was said that while the plan is not mentioned in the will and no provision is made for its carrying out, the matter was left with George Gould and that his father's wishes, whatever they were, will be carried out.

WICHITA AND COMANCHE LAND.

Organized Effort to Open Them in the Near Future.

Topeka, Kas., Dec. 17.—An organized effort is under way for the opening of the Wichita and Kiowa and Commanche Indian reservations during this session of Congress, and Jac. Schweizler, a prominent candidate for United States marshal of the territory, and E. J. Simpson, a candidate for secretary, will most likely be sent to Washington to work for that end.

The agricultural lands embraced in this reservation cannot be surpassed, and the prospective mining fields in the Wichita mountains adds additional incentive for hurrying up the ratification of the treaty with these Indians.

Switzerland's New President.

Berne, Dec. 15.—Dr. Charles Schenck has been elected President of the Swiss confederation and A. Frey Vice President.

Long Sheep Drive.

Boise City, Idaho, Dec. 15.—Early in May Frank Fordyce, a young stock baron of Idaho, will attempt to drive from the center of the state to Ogalida, Neb., a band of 45,000 sheep. The distance to be traveled by the animals is more than 1,000 miles, and Fordyce hopes to accomplish the trip in about six months. The sheep will have to cross the Rocky mountains in their wildest part and will have to ford scores of small streams.

Inheritance Taxes.

New York, Dec. 17.—The Supreme court has decided that the inheritance taxes on the bequests to Grace church and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, as made in the will of Catherine Lorillard Wolfe must stand. The bequest to Grace church is $355,000 and to the museum $200,000.

Drouth Broken.

Burnet, Tex., Dec. 14.—The drouth of six weeks' duration has been broken by a steady, slow rain that fell two days. May wheat, of which an increased acreage was sown last fall, was needing rain badly. The season of rain will also be of great benefit to stock. Some ranches were entirely dry.

Waterway Convention.

Duluth, Minn., Dec. 15.—Secretary Thompson says that it is the present intention to call the waterway convention to meet at Washington, Thursday, January 12.

BABY'S BLOOD AND SKIN

Cleansed and purified of every humor, eruption, and disease by the celebrated

CUTICURA REMEDIES

These great skin cures, blood purifiers, and humor remedies afford immediate relief in the most torturing of Itching and Burning Eczemas and other itching, scaly, crusted, and blotchy skin and scalp diseases, permit rest and sleep, and point to a permanent and economical (because most speedy) cure when the best physicians and all other remedies fail. Thousands of grateful testimonials attest their wonderful, unfailing, and incomparable efficacy. Sold everywhere. POTTER DRUG AND CHEM. CORP., Boston. "All About the Skin, Scalp, and Hair," mailed free.

BABY'S Skin and Scalp purified and beautified by CUTICURA SOAP. Absolutely pure.

HOW MY SIDE ACHES!

Aching Sides and Back, Hip, Kidney, and Uterine Pains, and Rheumatism Relieved in one minute by the Cuticura Anti-Pain Plaster. The first and only instantaneous pain-killing, strengthening plaster.

YOUNG FOR THE SENATE.

Quay May Not Have a Sure Thing After All.

Washington, Dec. 19.—(Special.)—Quite a stir was caused here to-day by the reports from Philadelphia that John Russell Young will be urged for the Pennsylvania Senatorship against Senator Quay. The fact that various members of the legislature who have been counted as for Quay have indicated an uneasiness and inclination to break away from him, if they can find somebody else on whom to concentrate, leads to considerable gossip as to the real situation.

With Dalzell, Young and Huff in the field as willing to be his successors, it is believed Quay may find more difficulty in securing re-election than he had supposed. Nevertheless he does not seem to be at all disturbed, but has even postponed his proposed trip to Pittsburg for several days, so confident does he feel.

TO PREACH THE KORAN

And Spread Mohammed in the United States.

Bombay, Dec. 20.—Alexander Russell Webb, who recently resigned his office as United States consul at Manilla, to preach Islamism, is now at Hydebad soliciting contributions to a fund to be spent in sending Islamite missionaries to the United States. He is having immense success.

By a few day's work in this city he secured $5,000 for his work and in Calcutta and Rangoon $10,000. In Hyderabad the subscriptions of the Mohammedans already amount to more than $11,500. He will use much of the money secured in India to establish Ismaite newspapers and lecture courses in American cities. He will also publish a new translation of the Koran.

THE WORLD'S FAIR BUTTON

Will be Pushed Next May by Grover Cleveland.

Chicago, Dec. 15.—Grover Cleveland will be asked to make a speech on May 1, 1893, at the exposition. At the close of the speech, if he accepts the invitation, Mr. Cleveland will touch an electric button starting the 14,000 horse power plant over in Machinery hall, that is to run all the whirring wheels of the fair.

This was decided by the committee on ceremonies. The other exercises will consist of the reading of a poem by Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, and a prayer. It is said the efforts at simplicity in the ceremonies of the day will probably be followed.

WAS FIRED FOR EATING PORK.

A New York Rabbi Could Not Stand Temptation.

New York, Dec. 16.—The Rev. Heyman Rosenborg, rabbi in charge of the Temple Beth Jacob in Keap street, near South Fourth street, Williamsburg, was expelled at a meeting of the congregation Wednesday evening, after having been convicted of violating a rule of the Orthodox Jewish religion by eating pork. Rabbi Rosenborg did not attend the meeting, and the vote to dismiss him was practically unanimous.

PRESIDENT GOMPERS CHOSEN.

Salary Also Raised Three Hundred Dollars Per Year.

Philadelphia, Dec. 19.—Before adjourning Saturday night the American Federation of Labor re-elected President Gompers, and advanced his salary from $1,500 to $1,800 per year.

The salary of the secretary was also increased, and Mr. Evans was likewise re-elected. Chicago secured the convention to be held next year, away from Denver and other competitors.

Michigan's Vote.

Lansing, Mich., Dec 20.—(Special.)—The official canvass of the vote cast for Presidential electors in Michigan shows that the plurality of George H. Durand (Democrat), in the eastern district, was 1,538, and of J. A. Hubbell (Republican), in the western district, was 21,950. The total vote in the state, as shown by adding the vote in different Congressional districts, was 465,365, of which the Republicans cast 222,708, the Democrats 202,296, the Prohibitionists 20,569, and the Populists 19,792. The Republican plurality is 20,412.

Majority for Resubmission.

Yankton, S. D., Dec. 17.—A poll of the state legislature shows a decided majority for resubmitting the prohibition law. A majority of the members are opposed to any change in the divorce law or any adverse railroad legislation.

Finance and Trade.

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

The shipment of over $4,000,000 gold to Europe last week, and fears in regard to the similar movement this week, created a sensitive feeling in the New York loan market, with a sharp flurry in rates. The bearings of this movement upon the currency situation are discussed with some symptoms of apprehension in financial circles, though it would seem that the most effective influence in moving the market is the prospective reduction of the bank surplus and the necessary curtailment of loans. The fact that higher rates will attract money from the interior and would naturally limit the disposition of foreign houses to ship gold are not lost sight of. Rates took a sharp upward turn on Tuesday, with a reaction the next day, followed by a very sharp rise Thursday and Friday. On Saturday call money was quoted at 5@6 per cent, with nothing doing. Time money was feverish, and 60 per cent was the only rate quoted on Saturday for any time.

Of course, with such a condition in the money market, the week was sensational on the stock board. There was a heavy upward movement early in the week, while the closing days witnessed a heavy break in prices, due to the money flurry.

The market for silver was dull and comparatively steady, due partly to a natural reaction from the downward break caused by the failure of the Brussels conference to decide upon any definite plan, and partly to the decreased production, which is, perhaps, in turn partly due to low prices and partly to the natural restriction of mining operations in the winter season. The latest quotation for bar silver in New York on Saturday was 84 cents per ounce, at which rate the silver in the standard dollar is worth 64 3-4 cents.

WEEKLY CONDITION OF TRADE.

Some Apprehension in Speculative Markets.

New York, Dec. 17.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade: The shipments of more than $3,000,000 gold to Europe early this week has caused some natural apprehension in speculative markets. It is true that the gold is demanded by Austria under such circumstances that an exceptional premium is paid for it, but neither Austria nor any other country could draw gold from the United States at present unless there were heavy sales of American securities by foreigners. The exports of breadstuffs, cotton, provisions, cattle and petroleum in November amounted to $72,669,392, indicating aggregate exports of about $95,000,000 per month, and an excess of merchandise exports over imports not less than $20,000,000. At the same time silver has been going abroad in large amounts. If it is clear that unless securities had been removed this way in unusual amount, gold could not be taken abroad in settlement of international exchanges. But the conditions of domestic trade are decidedly healthy, and the approaching close of the year will find a larger volume of business, both foreign and domestic, than has ever been known before.

The business failures occurring throughout the country during the past seven days number 304, as compared with totals of 297 last week. For the corresponding week of last year the figures were 335.

REVIEW OF WEEK'S BUSINESS.

OFFICE OF THE TOLEDO BLADE,
Toledo, O., Dec. 20, 1892.

The following shows changes in government bonds during the past week:

	Dec. 20.	Dec. 13.
U. S. 4's coupons	114	114¼
U. S. 4's registered	113	114¼
U. S. 2's registered	100	100
Pacific 6's '95	103	105

Condition of the Grain Market Up to the Close This Afternoon.

There was another dull forenoon on the grain exchanges, and although the conditions for both wheat and corn were a little better than on the preceding day, prices after opening steady on wheat, eased a trifle. The amount on passage shows a decrease of 1,326,000 bushels, but cables indicate that sellers are willing to meet buyers at Liverpool, and this, coupled with receipts of 750 cars of wheat in the Northwest toned prices down. A point that ordinarily would have given a better tone to values was the fairly good export of wheat from Atlantic seaboard ports. In corn the market opened a small fraction under